Australian Bureau of Statistics

1367.5 - Western Australian Statistical Indicators, Jun 2009

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Summary

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FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE (QUARTER)	Release Date
September 2009	22 October 2009

CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

This publication has several new features including:

- The integration of commentary with summary tables;
- Excel spreadsheets that can be individually downloaded from the ABS website. Many of the spreadsheets contain more detail than the corresponding summary table. Some of the Construction, Agriculture and Reported offences data are now available only in spreadsheet format.
- Most summary tables include data for the last two financial years, the last two quarters and the corresponding quarter from the previous year.
- Some previously published data are no longer provided, or are provided in a different format, owing to changes in statistical collections, user requirements and data availability on the ABS website. The affected data include Retail Trade (now provided as monthly data); Building approvals by number and value (now provided as quarterly data); and International Trade (commodity data now provided at the one digit level).
- Data tables no longer provided include Livestock slaughtered and meat produced; Tourist Accommodation and Job vacancies.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The statistics shown are the latest available as at 23 June 2009. Explanatory Notes of the form found in other ABS publications are not included in **Western Australian Statistical Indicators**. Readers are directed to the Explanatory Notes contained in related ABS publications.

REVISIONS

Data contained in this publication are subject to revision as more complete and accurate information becomes available each quarter.

INQUIRIES

For information about other ABS statistics and services, please refer to the last page of this publication.

INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Sue Lee on Perth (08) 9360 5111.

List of Historical Feature Articles

FEATURE ARTICLES

Issue	Title
Jun 2009	The ups and downs of Western Australia's labour market
Sep 2008	Preparedness for emergencies and household assistance required
June 2008	Migration and mobility in Western Australia
Mar 2008	Regional household and family characteristics in Western Australia
	Retail industry in Western Australia
Dec 2007	Regional housing in Western Australia
	Short-term overseas travel to and from Western Australia
Sep 2007	Regional wage and salary earners in Western Australia - 2001-02 to 2003-04
	Cultural diversity in Western Australia
Jun 2007	Research and experimental development in Western Australia
	General Social Survey - Western Australian summary
	Changing water and energy use in Perth homes
Mar 2007	The resource industry in Western Australia: 2001–02 to 2005–06
	The agriculture industry in Western Australia
Dec 2006	Pathways in education and related outcomes in Western Australia
	Drivers of Perth's rising prices
	International trade in Western Australia: 2003-04 to 2005-06
Sep 2006	Measures of Western Australia's progress
	Western Australians on the move - A housing perspective
Jun 2006	Labour force trends in Western Australia
	Selected statistics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Western Australia
Mar 2006	Skills shortages in Western Australia - Part 2
	Household expenditure in Western Australia
Dec 2005	Skills shortages in Western Australia - Part 1
	State accounts - A snapshot of Western Australia's economy in 2004-05
Sep 2005	Youth in regional Western Australia
Jun 2005	Western Australia's changing trade relations - The emergence of China and India
	Disability, ageing and carers in Western Australia
Mar 2005	Components of Western Australia's economic growth
	Social interactions and support in Western Australia
Dec 2004	The impact of rising house prices on the WA economy
	State accounts: A snapshot of WA's economy in 2003-04
Sep 2004	Intra-state migration
Jun 2004	Household water conservation and use in Western Australia
Mar 2004	Regional wage and salary earners in Western Australia
	The impact of migration on Western Australia's population
Dec 2003	The construction industry in Western Australia
Sep 2003	The winemaking industry in Western Australia
Jun 2003	Population measures: A case study
	Salinity and land management on Western Australia farms
Mar 2003	Demystifying chain volume measures
Dec 2002	Western Australia: A small area perspective

About this Release

Contains the most recent statistics for Western Australia including population; employment and earnings; state accounts; prices; consumption; international merchandise trade; investment and finance; construction; mining and energy; tourism; and social trends. Additional data, including some construction, agriculture and reported offences data, are included in the related time-series spreadsheets. Quarterly issues provide a brief description of recent movements in key state data as well as frequent analytical articles on aspects of Western Australia's economy and society.

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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

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WESTERN AUSTRALIA STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Population and Social Trends

- By December 2008, the estimated resident population of Western Australia had risen to 2.2 million, representing a quarterly increase of 0.7%.
- In the December quarter 2008, the principal component of population growth was overseas migration, which brought an additional 9,700 people (net) to the state.
- In the ten years to 2007, the median age at first marriage in Western Australia steadily increased, to 30.0 years for males and 27.8 years for females.
- Since 2002, the total fertility rate (TFR) has trended upwards from 1.7 to 2.0 babies per woman. This increase is the result of higher fertility among women aged 30 years and over.
- In 2007, the main causes of death were cancer (malignant neoplasms), ischaemic heart disease and stroke, together accounting for more than half (54%) of all deaths.

Employment and Earnings

- The number of unemployed persons in May 2009 grew for the eighth successive month to 61,200 persons (trend).
- In May 2009, the unemployment rate in Western Australia was 5.0% in trend terms, having risen from 4.1% over a three month period. However, this was considerably lower than the national unemployment rate, which grew to 5.7% in May 2009.
- The average weekly number of hours worked by employees decreased by 0.6 hours to 34.5 hours in the May quarter 2009 (original).
- Latest trend figures show the average full-time ordinary time earnings of adult employees rose by 1.7% to $1,340 per week during the February quarter 2009.

State Accounts

- In seasonally adjusted terms, state final demand fell 2.3% in the March quarter 2009 to just under $35 billion.
- In trend terms, state final demand decreased by 0.4% over the same period.

Prices

- Perth's Consumer Price Index (CPI) fell 0.1% in the March quarter 2009. Financial and insurance services (down 5.9%) was the most significant contributor to the March decrease, with deposits and loan facilities prices falling by almost 14%.
- In the March quarter 2009, the price index for established houses in Perth declined for the fifth successive quarter. The fall of 3.6% was considerably higher than previous falls of 2.2% in the September quarter and 2.5% in the December quarter.
- In the same quarter, the price index for project homes in Perth decreased 0.4%, the first decrease since March 2001.

Consumption

- In seasonally adjusted terms, retail turnover in Western Australia fell by 2.4% in April 2009 following an increase (2.2%) in March 2009.

- In trend terms, there was a steady decrease in the sales of new motor vehicles in the 15 months to May 2009. Over that period, the number of vehicles sold fell by almost 22%, to 8,055 vehicles.

International Merchandise Trade

- In the March quarter 2009, Western Australia's international trade surplus was more than $14 billion. This was 41% higher than the surplus for the same quarter of the previous year ($10 billion).
- China has continued to be the major export destination, with the value of goods received from Western Australia rising to $7.6 billion in the March quarter 2009.
- The United Kingdom has overtaken Japan as the second major export destination, with the value of goods received in the March quarter ($4 billion) more than doubling since March 2008.

Investment and Finance

- Private new capital expenditure in Western Australia rose by almost 1.3% in trend chain volume terms in the March quarter 2009, to just over $7 billion. Investment in buildings and structures accounted for just over $5 billion of this new expenditure.
- In April 2009, the total number of dwellings financed in trend terms continued its steady climb from September 2008, exceeding 7,000 for the first time since March 2008.

Construction

- In the three months to April 2009, 4,458 houses were approved for construction in Western Australia (trend). This was 1.1% higher than in the previous quarter, but almost 23% lower than in the same quarter of the previous year.
- In the December quarter 2008, construction commenced on 4,446 dwellings. This represents a decrease of approximately 15% compared with the previous quarter and 21% compared with the same quarter of the previous year.

Mining and Energy

- Expenditure on mineral exploration ($293 million) in Western Australia fell almost 11% in trend terms in the March quarter 2009. This expenditure was below $300 million for the first time since September 2007 ($269 million).
- Expenditure on exploration for silver, lead and zinc, nickel and cobalt; and iron ore were all down by more than 40% and for gold by 16%.
- Production of diamonds decreased by almost 16% following three successive quarters of growth.

Tourism

- March quarter 2009 experienced a fall of 4.5% in the number of overseas visitors

compared to the same quarter of the previous year, with markedly fewer visitors from the United Kingdom, Japan and South Africa.
- The top five countries of origin for overseas visitors were the United Kingdom, Singapore, Malaysia, Japan and New Zealand in the March quarter 2009.
- The top destination for Western Australian residents travelling abroad in the March quarter was Indonesia. Other popular destinations were Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and New Zealand.

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Population and social trends

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POPULATION AND SOCIAL TRENDS

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POPULATION GROWTH

- The preliminary estimated resident population for Western Australia was 2.2 million at 31 December 2008, an increase of 0.7% from September 2008.
- The state's quarterly population growth was equal highest with Queensland, followed closely by Victoria (up 0.5%). Nationally, the population grew 0.5% to 21.6 million persons. However, for the 12 months ending 31 December 2008, Western Australia recorded the largest percentage gain (3.1%), ahead of Queensland (2.5%) and

Northern Territory (2.0%).

- In December 2008, Western Australia recorded 7,600 births and 3,200 deaths, a natural increase of 4,400 persons.
- Western Australia's estimated resident population in December 2008 contributed 10.2% to the overall nation's population, with New South Wales having the largest proportion (32.5%).

1 ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION, BIRTHS AND DEATHS(a)

Reference period	**ERP**(b) '000	**Births** '000	**Deaths** '000
2006-2007	2 113.0	28.9	12.0
2007-2008	2 171.2	31.2	12.4
2007	2 138.1	29.3	12.3
2008	2 204.0	31.9	12.8
2007			
December	2 138.1	6.8	3.0
2008			
March	2 156.7	8.4	3.0
June	2 171.2	8.1	3.1
September	2 188.5	7.7	3.4
December	2 204.0	7.6	3.2

(a) ERP data may be final, revised or preliminary at any point in time. See the 'ERP Data Status' section of the Notes in the source publication.
(b) At end of reference period.
Source: **Australian Demographic Statistics,** cat. no. 3101.0.

- In the year to December 2008, the principal component of population growth was net overseas migration, followed by natural increase. Net interstate migration formed a relatively small component of the growth.
- During the quarter ending 31 December 2008, an estimated 15,600 people were added to the Western Australian population. Natural increase (births minus deaths) accounted for 4,400 of the total while net overseas migration and interstate migration added 9,700 and 1,400 people respectively.

2 COMPONENTS OF POPULATION CHANGE(a)

	Components of population growth			
Reference period	**Natural increase**(b) '000	**Net interstate migration** '000	**Net overseas migration**(c) '000	**Total population growth**(d) '000
2006-2007	16.9	5.2	31.5	53.6
2007-2008	18.7	4.8	34.7	58.2
2007	16.9	4.7	31.7	53.3
2008	19.1	6.3	40.6	66.0
2007				
December	3.9	0.7	7.5	12.2
2008				
March	5.5	1.7	11.4	18.6

June	5.0	1.5	8.0	14.5
September	4.2	1.6	11.4	17.3
December	4.4	1.4	9.7	15.6

(a) Component of population change data may be final, revised or preliminary at any point in time. See the "ERP Data Status' section of the Notes in the source publication.
(b) Births minus deaths.
(c) Adjusted for category jumping.
(d) Differences may occur between total growth and the sum of natural increase and net migration due to intercensal discrepancy.
Source: **Australian Demographic Statistics,** cat. no. 3101.0.

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Family formation

FAMILY FORMATION

- In the past decade the median age at first marriage has steadily increased for both sexes reaching 30.0 years for males and 27.8 years for females in 2007.
- Since 2002, when the fertility of the Western Australian population reached an historic low of 1.7 babies per woman, the total fertility rate (TFR) has trended upwards reaching 2.0 babies per woman in 2007. In line with national trends, the recent increase would appear to be the result of higher fertility among women aged 30 years and over.
- In the 10 years to June 2007, the number of births to mothers aged 35 years and over rose by 72%. These births represented 14% of all births in Western Australia in 1997 but 21% of all births in 2007.

3 Family Formation

Indicator		1997	2004	2005	2006	2007
Registered marriages						
Number of marriages(a)	no.	10 456	10 601	11 124	11 602	12 290
Crude marriage rate	rate	5.8	5.4	5.5	5.6	5.8
Marriages where both partners married for first time	no.	6 700	7 002	7 321	7 780	8 286
Median age at first marriage						
Males	years	28.1	29.6	29.9	29.9	30.0
Females	years	26.1	27.6	27.8	27.7	27.8
Median age at remarriage - divorced persons						
Males	years	42.5	45.5	45.7	45.6	46.1
Females	years	39.2	41.8	42.4	42.3	42.8
Divorces(b)						
Number of divorces	no.	5 046	4 337	5 265	5 544	4 932
Crude divorce rate(c)	rate	2.8	2.2	2.6	2.7	2.3
Median duration between marriage and separation	years	8.3	9.1	9.5	9.6	9.9
Divorces involving children aged under 18(d)	no.	2 717	2 159	2 680	2 786	2 410
Children aged under 18 affected by divorce	no.	na	4 049	5 126	5 248	4 576

Fertility							
	Number of births	no.	24 776	25 295	26 253	27 776	29 164
	Total fertility rate(e)	rate	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.0
	Births to mothers aged under 20	no.	1 348	1 371	1 446	1 392	1 485
	Births to mothers aged 35 and over	no.	3 582	4 674	5 174	5 763	6 145
	Births outside marriage	no.	7 642	9 427	9 653	10 393	11 133
	Births outside marriage acknowledged by father	no.	6 490	8 457	8 687	9 478	10 012

na not available
(a) The number of marriages registered in the calendar year per 1,000 of the estimated resident population at 30 June of that year.
(b) The lower number of divorces recorded in 2004 was due to processing and timing issues. In general, around 25% of divorces applied in a particular year are registered in the following year. In 2003 more divorces were registered in the year they occurred leading to a fall in the number of late registrations processed in 2004.
(c) The number of divorces granted in the calendar year per 1,000 of the estimated resident population at 30 June of that year.
(d) Refers to divorces of couples with unmarried children of the registered marriage aged under 18 at the time of application for divorce.
(e) The sum of age-specific fertility rates (live births at each age of mother per female population of that age). It represents the number of
Source: **Marriages, Australia** cat. no. 3306.0.55.001; **Divorces, Australia** cat. no. 3307.0.55.001; **Births, Australia** cat. no. 3301.0; ABS data available on request, **Births, Australia; Demography,** Western Australia cat. no. 3311.5.5.001

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Causes of death

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CAUSES OF DEATH

- In 2007, there were 12,283 deaths registered in Western Australia. The main causes of death were cancer (malignant neoplasms), ischaemic heart disease and stroke, together accounting for more than half (54%) of all deaths. Transport accidents were responsible for 270 deaths (2.2%).
- The proportion of deaths caused by cancer (30.5%) was slightly higher than in 1997 (28.5%). By contrast, ischaemic heart disease (16%) and stroke (6.9%) accounted for a smaller proportion of deaths in 2007 than in 1997 (20% and 9.2% respectively).
- In 2007, the total number of deaths in the 15-24 year age group was twice as high for males (116) as for females (52). Transport accidents accounted for more male (34%) than female (31%) deaths in this younger age group, although the difference in these proportions was smaller than in the previous year (43% compared with 30%).
- Suicide deaths in 2007 were much higher for males than females in this younger age group. Of the 44 deaths caused by 'intentional self harm' among persons aged 15-24 years, 34 were male and 10 were female. Suicide accounted for 29% of male deaths

in this age group, compared with 19% of female deaths. However, in 2006, these proportions were virtually identical (both around 17%).

4 Causes of Death(a)

	Unit	1997	2004	2005	2006	2007 (b)(c)
Leading causes of death (all deaths) and ICD code						
Cancer (C00-D48)	%	28.5	30.5	30.8	31.2	30.5
Ischaemic heart disease (I20-I25)	%	20.2	17.4	17.5	16.3	16.2
Stroke (I60-I69)	%	9.2	8.1	7.4	7.6	6.9
Selected cancer and ICD code						
Male lung cancer (of male deaths) (C33-C34)	%	6.7	7.0	7.9	7.4	6.8
Female lung cancer (of female deaths) (C33-C34)	%	3.7	4.6	4.8	4.7	5.0
Female breast cancer (of female deaths) (C50)	%	4.5	4.1	4.4	np	4.3
Prostate cancer (of male deaths) (C61)	%	3.2	3.7	3.9	4.1	3.5
Skin cancer (of all deaths) (C43)	%	0.7	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.0
Heart disease						
Male ischaemic heart disease (of male deaths) (I20-I25)	%	21.1	18.4	17.9	17.5	17.4
Female ischaemic heart disease (of female deaths) (I20-I25)	%	19.2	16.3	17.1	14.8	14.8
Accidents and suicide (V01-Y98)						
Transport accidents (V01-V99, Y85)						
Males (of male deaths)	%	2.9	2.6	2.2	2.7	3.3
15-24 years (of male deaths 15-24 years)	%	38.7	35.0	36.2	43.0	33.6
Females (of female deaths)	%	1.2	1.0	1.0	0.9	1.0
15-24 years (of female deaths 15-24 years)	%	26.3	28.8	31.6	30.2	30.8
Suicide (X60-X84, Y87.0)(d)						
Males (of male deaths)	%	3.6	2.7	2.8	2.5	3.1
15-24 years (of male deaths 15-24 years)	%	22.7	15.0	23.3	17.2	29.3
Females (of female deaths)	%	1.0	0.7	0.6	0.9	1.0
15-24 years (of female deaths 15-24 years)	%	15.8	9.6	7.9	17.0	19.2
Total male deaths	no.	5 774	5 850	5 974	6 186	6 448
Total female deaths	no.	5 033	5 334	5 323	5 457	5 835
Total male deaths 15-24 years	no.	150	120	116	128	116
Total female deaths 15-24 years	no.	57	52	38	53	52
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	no.	5.3	3.9	4.6	4.9	2.4

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated
(a) Causes of death statistics for states and territories in this publication have been compiled in respect of the state or territory of usual residence of the deceased, regardless of where in Australia the death occurred and was registered. Deaths of persons usually resident overseas are included in the state/territory in which their death was registered.
(b) Causes of death data for 2007 is subject to revision. See Explanatory Notes 3-4 in the source publication for further information
(c) See Explanatory Notes 67-82 for further informationon specific issues relating to 2007 data.
(d) Care needs to be taken in interpreting figures relating to suicide due to limitations of the data. See Explanatory Notes 78-79 and Technical Note: ABS coding of suicide deaths for further information.
Source: **Causes of Death** (cat. no. 3303.0); **Deaths** (cat. no 3302.0). ABS data available on request.

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Employment and earnings

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EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS

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Labour Force Status

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LABOUR FORCE STATUS

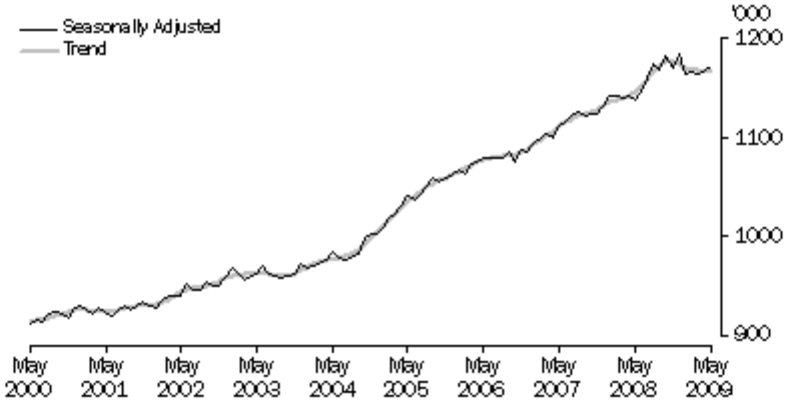
- Western Australia's unemployment rate (trend) grew from 2.7% in September 2008, the lowest on record, to 5.0% in May 2009. It is the first time the state's unemployment rate has reached 5.0% since July 2004.
- In May 2009, Western Australia had the third lowest unemployment rate of all the states and territories. At that time, the Australian Capital Territory had the lowest rate (3.3%) followed by Northern Territory (3.9%) while the national unemployment rate was 5.7%.
- The number of unemployed persons (trend) in May 2009 grew for the eighth successive month to 61,200 persons.

Unemployment rate

Note: Break in trend series at April 2001.
Source: *Labour Force Australia, Spreadsheets*, cat. no. 6202.0.55.001.

- In trend terms, the total number of employed persons in Western Australia was estimated at 1,167,500 in May 2009, after peaking at 1,176,200 in October 2008. In the six months to April 2009, the number employed fell by 0.8% to 1,166,900 persons. The slight increase in the May estimate (600 persons) was the first monthly increase since October 2008.
- Despite recent falls in the monthly employment figure, the number of people employed in Western Australia in May 2009 was 1.9% higher than in May 2008.

Employed persons, Total



Source: *Labour Force Australia, Spreadsheets*, cat. no. 6202.0.55.001.

1 Labour Force Status (Aged 15 Years and Over), by Sex: Trend

Month	**Employed** '000	**Unemployed** '000	**Labour force**(a) '000	**Participation rate** %	**Unemployment rate** %
Persons					
2008					
May	1 145.9	37.7	1 183.6	68.5	3.2
June	1 151.6	37.1	1 188.6	68.6	3.1
July	1 159.2	35.8	1 195.0	68.9	3.0
August	1 167.1	34.3	1 201.4	69.1	2.9
September	1 173.1	33.1	1 206.3	69.2	2.7
October	1 176.2	33.3	1 209.5	69.3	2.8
November	1 176.0	35.4	1 211.4	69.2	2.9
December	1 173.5	39.3	1 212.8	69.1	3.2
2009					
January	1 170.7	44.4	1 215.0	69.0	3.6
February	1 168.6	49.6	1 218.2	69.1	4.1
March	1 167.4	54.3	1 221.7	69.1	4.4
April	1 166.9	58.4	1 225.3	69.2	4.8

May	1 167.5	61.2	1 228.7	69.2	5.0

(a) Discrepancies may occur between sums of component items and totals due to rounding.
Source: **Labour Force, Australia,** cat. no. 6202.0.

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Industry of employment

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INDUSTRY OF EMPLOYMENT

- In the May quarter 2009, industries in which large employment losses occurred, in original data terms, were Electricity, gas, water and water services (down 37%, 8,300 persons) and Agriculture, forestry and fishing (down 30%, 5,200 persons). In Agriculture, forestry and fishing, the number of employed persons fell to 34,900, having not fallen below 40,000 in the previous 12 months.
- Other industries which experienced job losses in the May quarter 2009 included Information media and telecommunications (down 16%, 2,200 persons) as well as Mining and Manufacturing (both between 7% and 9%). In numeric terms, Mining and Manufacturing contributed significantly to employment losses in the May quarter, down 6,900 and 7,600 persons respectively.
- In the 12 months to May 2009, the largest number of job losses occurred in the Mining industry, where the total number employed fell by about 25% (nearly 22,000 persons).
- In contrast, employment growth occurred in the May quarter 2009 in the industries of Financial and insurance services (up 17%, 5,500 persons), Arts and recreation services (15%, 2,900 persons), Health care and social assistance (up 12%, 14,500 persons) and Education and training (up 10%, 7,900 persons).

2 Number of Employed Persons, by Industry: Original

	May 08 '000	**Feb 09** '000	**May 09** '000
Western Australia	**1 137.5**	**1 163.4**	**1 171.3**
Industry(a)			
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	35.8	50.1	34.9
Mining	73.5	56.8	51.9
Manufacturing	104.1	102.9	95.3
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	17.0	22.6	14.3
Construction	123.6	122.3	122.1
Wholesale trade	37.4	42.1	41.6
Retail trade	113.0	146.4	142.3
Accommodation and food services	60.8	65.2	63.8
Transport, postal and warehousing	51.7	59.7	67.9

Information media and telecommunications	17.4	14.0	11.8
Financial and insurance services	29.8	26.0	30.5
Rental, hiring and real estate services	22.5	21.0	20.8
Professional, scientific and technical services	79.1	66.4	68.6
Administrative and support services	42.6	35.7	36.5
Public administration and safety	63.7	74.7	81.1
Education and training	88.8	77.1	85.0
Health Care and social assistance	107.1	115.1	129.6
Arts and recreation services	19.4	19.6	22.5
Other services	50.2	45.9	51.0

(a) Industry estimates are classified to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) 2006.
Source: **Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly,** cat. no. 6291.0.55.003.

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Occupation of employment

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OCCUPATION OF EMPLOYMENT

- In original terms, occupations that recorded employment decreases in the May quarter 2009, ranging from 3% to 8%, were Technicians and trades workers, Clerical and administrative workers, Machinery operators and drivers and Sales workers. The occupation of Machinery operators and drivers had two successive quarterly declines, falling 8% in the February quarter 2008 and 6% in the May quarter 2009.
- Over the same period, occupations that experienced employment growth were Community and personal service workers (12%), Professionals (7%), Labourers (5%) and Managers (3%).

3 Number of Employed Persons, by Occupation: Original

	May 08 '000	Feb 09 '000	May 09 '000
Western Australia	**1 137.5**	**1 163.4**	**1 171.3**
Occupation(a)			
Managers	130.6	151.5	155.8
Professionals	228.8	205.7	219.1
Technicians and trades workers	196.3	211.6	204.1
Community and personal service workers	97.9	100.4	112.4
Clerical and administrative workers	164.9	171.6	164.8
Sales workers	91.5	114.0	105.4
Machinery operators and drivers	91.8	85.4	80.1
Labourers	135.6	123.1	129.6

(a) Occupation estimates are based the 2006 Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO).

Source: **Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly,** cat. no. 6291.0.55.003.

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EMPLOYEES AND HOURS WORKED BY INDUSTRY

- In the May quarter 2009, the average number of hours worked by employees (original) in Western Australia was highest in the industries of Agriculture, forestry and fishing; Mining and Construction, which recorded averages above 40 hours per week. By contrast, Accommodation and food services; Health Care and social assistance; Retail trade; Arts and recreation services recorded averages below 30 hours per week.
- Overall, the average weekly number of hours worked by employees decreased by 0.6 hours to 34.5 hours in the May quarter 2009. Industries showing decreases in average hours included Information media and telecommunications (down 6.4 hours), Arts and recreation services (down 4.9 hours) and Wholesale trade (down 3 hours).
- Over the same period, increases in average hours were recorded in Agriculture, forestry and fishing (up 4.1 hours), Administrative and support services (up 3.7 hours) and Electricity, gas, water and waste services (up 2.0 hours).

4 Employees Average Weekly Hours Worked(a)**, by Industry**(b)**: Original**

	May 08	Feb 09	May 09
	Average weekly hours worked (hours)		
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	47.3	40.3	44.4
Mining	46.1	45.7	47.3
Manufacturing	38.3	39.6	38.0
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	42.4	36.3	38.3
Construction	41.2	42.5	41.9
Wholesale trade	39.8	39.9	36.9
Retail trade	28.1	28.6	28.5
Accommodation and food services	25.9	28.9	29.7
Transport, postal and warehousing	39.7	38.0	36.1
Information media and telecommunications	31.1	37.7	31.3
Financial and insurance services	37.3	35.9	36.0
Rental, hiring and real estate services	42.5	37.2	36.7
Professional, scientific and technical services	37.9	37.6	39.6
Administrative and support services	32.7	28.9	32.6
Public administration and safety	32.2	35.0	34.3
Education and training	33.7	32.4	31.7
Health Care and social assistance	30.3	29.3	29.6
Arts and recreation services	29.5	30.7	25.8

Other services	36.9	34.1	31.9
Total	**35.7**	**35.1**	**34.5**

(a) Timeseries subject to major revisions due to improvements in data estimation methodology.
(b) Data are based on ANZSIC06 Division
Source: **Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly,** cat. no. 6291.0.55.003.

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Employees and hours worked by occupation

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EMPLOYEES AND HOURS WORKED BY OCCUPATION

- From an occupation perspective, Managers have consistently worked the longest hours, averaging more than 43 hours per week for the last three quarters. In addition, Machinery operators and drivers, and Technicians and trades workers averaged more than 40 hours per week in the May quarter 2009. In contrast, Sales workers, Labourers and Community and personal service workers averaged less than 30 hours a week.
- Professionals and Sales workers, Labourers and Clerical and administrative workers all recorded small decreases in the average hours worked in the May quarter while Community and personal service workers and Managers recorded small increases.

5 Employees Average Weekly Hours Worked(a)**, by Occupation** (b)**: Original**

	May 08	Feb 09	May 09
	Average weekly hours worked (hours)		
Managers	44.1	43.3	44.8
Professionals	36.6	36.8	35.1
Technicians and trades workers	40.6	39.9	40.1
Community and personal service workers	27.9	26.0	27.7
Clerical and administrative workers	31.7	32.3	31.0
Sales workers	27.9	27.5	25.8
Machinery operators and drivers	44.6	42.3	41.7
Labourers	30.4	29.8	28.4
Total	**35.7**	**35.1**	**34.5**

(a) Timeseries subject to major revisions due to improvements in data estimation methodology.
(b) Data are based on ANZSCO06 Major group
Source: **Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly,** cat. no. 6291.0.55.003.

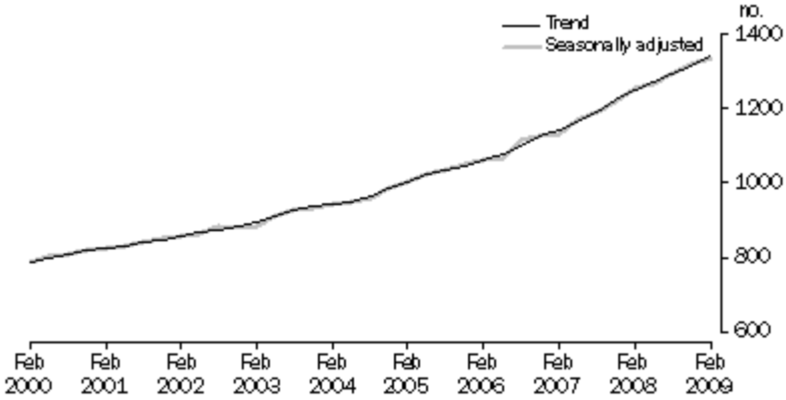
To view Excel spreadsheet: Employees and Hours Worked by Occupation

Average weekly earnings

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS

- Growth in the total earnings of Western Australian employees has remained steady at 1.4% (trend) in the last two quarters, with average weekly earnings of all employees rising to $1,034 in the February quarter 2009. The period of strongest growth in recent times was August 2006 to November 2007 when the quarterly increases ranged between 2% and 3%.
- In the February quarter 2009, the ordinary time average weekly earnings of full-time adult workers rose 1.7% to $1,340 (trend). However, this growth has dipped slightly over the last three quarters.

Average Weekly Earnings, Full-time adult ordinary time earnings



Source: Average weekly earnings, Australia, cat. no. 6302.0

6 Average Weekly Earnings of Employees

Quarter	Full-time adult ordinary time earnings $	Full-time adult total earnings $	All employees total earnings $
		PERSONS	
		ORIGINAL	
2008			
February	1 259.10	1 324.50	986.20
November	1 321.40	1 393.30	1 025.90
2009			
February	1 338.80	1 405.60	1 037.20
		SEASONALLY ADJUSTED	
2008			
February	1 258.60	1 323.90	984.00
November	1 320.50	1 391.30	1 023.00
2009			
February	1 337.80	1 404.70	1 034.60

TREND			
2008			
February	1 249.00	1 314.40	980.30
November	1 317.10	1 386.80	1 019.50
2009			
February	1 339.90	1 408.00	1 034.00

Source: **Average weekly Earnings, Australia,** cat. no. 6302.0.

- In the February quarter 2009, the mining industry had the highest average ordinary time earnings for full-time adult workers at $2,143 per week (original). This was followed by Electricity, gas and water supply ($1,636 per week).
- Industries with the highest percentage growth in earnings (original) were Property and business services; Finance and insurance; and Education, all increasing around 5 to 6%.
- Average weekly earnings (original) decreased in the February 2009 quarter in the industries of Manufacturing (down 4.7%),Transport and storage (down 3.5%) and Wholesale trade (down 2.8%).

7 Average Weekly Earnings of Employees, by Industry: Original

ANZSIC Division	Feb 08	Nov 08	Feb 09
Full-time adult ordinary time earnings ($)			
Mining	2 003.90	2 136.40	2 142.80
Manufacturing	1 162.90	1 213.10	1 156.00
Electricity, gas and water supply	1 494.30	1 635.10	1 635.60
Construction	1 190.40	1 328.40	1 329.10
Wholesale trade	1 200.50	1 288.60	1 252.40
Retail trade	927.00	985.70	962.10
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants	863.60	878.40	919.50
Transport and storage	1 109.30	1 265.90	1 221.60
Communication services	1 045.50	1 039.20	1 071.40
Finance and insurance	1 142.10	1 219.80	1 289.50
Property and business services	1 482.00	1 443.60	1 527.50
Government administration and defence	1 093.10	1 132.10	1 172.60
Education	1 119.90	1 228.20	1 287.00
Health and community services	1 183.20	1 211.70	1 226.20
Cultural and recreational services	1 165.10	1 139.70	1 138.70
Personal and other services	1 061.30	1 173.80	1 198.20
Total	**1 259.10**	**1 321.40**	**1 338.80**

Source: **Average Weekly Earnings, Australia,** cat. no. 6302.0.

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State accounts

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State Final Demand

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State Final Demand

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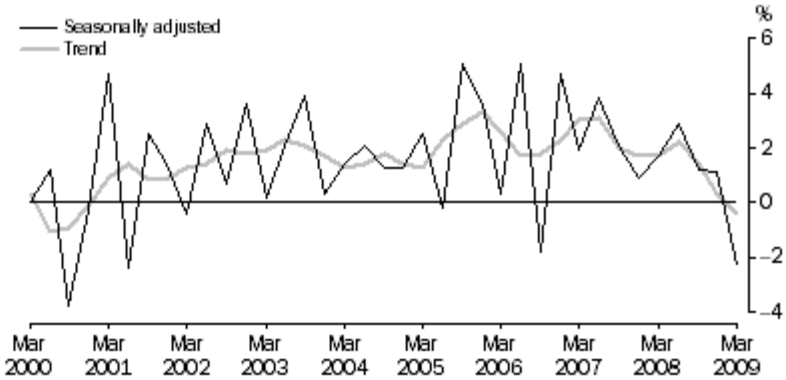
STATE FINAL DEMAND

- State final demand (trend chain volume measures) in Western Australia fell 0.4% to just over $35 billion in the March 2009 quarter. This was the first decrease since December 2000. Nationally, domestic final demand also recorded a fall of 0.3% in the March quarter 2009.
- Decreases in state final demand were recorded in the March quarter in the majority of states and territories, including New South Wales (down 0.1%), Victoria (down 0.3%), Australian Capital Territory (down 0.7%) and Queensland (down 1.4%). South Australia was the only state that recorded an increase (0.6%) in the March 2009 quarter.

STATE FINAL DEMAND, Chain volume measures **-** Change from previous quarter



Source: Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product, cat. no. 5206.0.

- In seasonally adjusted chain volume measures, Western Australia recorded a decrease of 2.3% in state final demand in the March 2009 quarter. Contributing to the decline was a fall in private gross fixed capital (down 7.6%).
- In contrast, public gross fixed capital formation increased 6.2%. There were also minimal increases in final consumption expenditure for general government and

households in the March quarter (0.4% and 0.8% respectively).

1 Components of State Final Demand, Chain Volume Measures(a)

	Mar 08	Dec 08	Mar 09	Percentage change: Previous qtr	Percentage change: Same qtr previous year
	$m	$m	$m	%	%
TREND					
Final consumption expenditure					
General government	4 345	4 436	4 450	0.3	2.4
Households	15 161	15 626	15 819	1.2	4.3
Total final consumption expenditure	*19 506*	*20 062*	*20 269*	*1.0*	*3.9*
Private gross fixed capital formation	12 915	13 589	13 221	-2.7	2.4
Public gross fixed capital formation	1 383	1 492	1 537	3.0	11.1
State final demand	**33 804**	**35 143**	**35 019**	**-0.4**	**3.6**
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED					
Final consumption expenditure					
General government	4 335	4 435	4 451	0.4	2.7
Households	15 248	15 655	15 781	0.8	3.5
Total final consumption expenditure	*19 583*	*20 090*	*20 232*	*0.7*	*3.3*
Private gross fixed capital formation	12 654	13 896	12 846	-7.6	1.5
Public gross fixed capital formation	1 427	1 470	1 561	6.2	9.4
State final demand	**33 664**	**35 456**	**34 639**	**-2.3**	**2.9**

(a) Reference year for chain volume measures is 2006-07.
Source: **Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product,** cat. no. 5206.0.

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Prices

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PRICES

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Consumer Price Index

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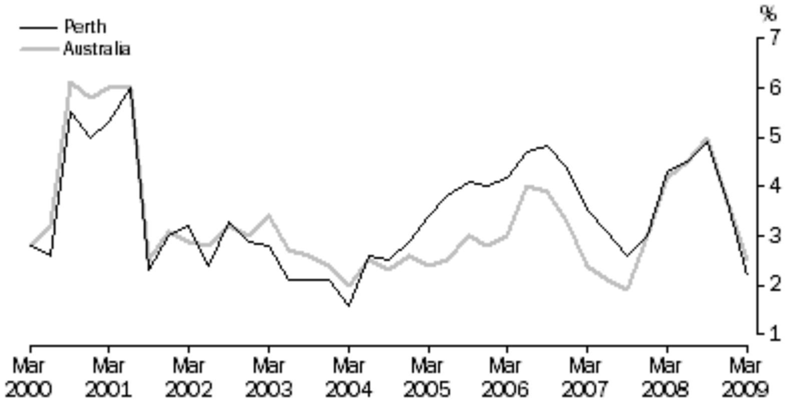
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

- Perth's Consumer Price Index (CPI) has decreased for the past two quarters, falling 0.3% in the December 2008 quarter and 0.1% in the March 2009 quarter.
- Financial and insurance services (-5.9%) was the most significant contributor to the March decrease, with deposits and loan facilities prices falling by almost 14%.
- Another significant contributor to the price decrease was clothing and footwear (-5.4%), particularly men's and women's outer wear, the prices of which both fell by about 8%. Transportation costs (automotive fuel down 10%) and recreation (domestic holiday travel down 6.5%) were also drivers of the fall in the Perth CPI.
- In contrast, the March quarter saw price increases in health (4.2%) and education (5.3%). This reflected the higher price of pharmaceuticals and secondary education (up more than 10% and 8% respectively). The price of food rose by 2.3% in the March 2009 quarter, with vegetables up 5.4%.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (ALL GROUPS), Change from same quarter previous year



Source: Consumer Price Index, Australia, cat. no. 6401.0.

- In the year to March 2009, Perth's CPI rose 2.2%, slightly less than the nation's CPI rise of 2.5%. All Australian capital cities recorded positive price rises, with Brisbane the largest (3.1%) followed by Darwin (2.8%), while Melbourne had the smallest (2.1%).
- The main contributors to Perth's annual price rise were alcohol and tobacco (6.0%), housing (5.5%) and education (5.3%). Alcohol price rises were particularly high for spirit beverages (up 15%) while increased housing costs were largely due to rising rents (up 11%). Prices in the preschool/primary and secondary education sectors both rose around 8%.

1 Consumer Price Index(a)**, by Group - Perth**

	CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS FINANCIAL YEAR		CHANGE FROM SAME QUARTER PREVIOUS YEAR	CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS QUARTER	
	2006-07	2007-08	Mar 09	Dec 08	Mar 09
	%	%	%	%	%
All groups	4.0	3.6	2.2	-0.3	-0.1
Food	5.4	4.2	4.8	1.2	2.3
Alcohol and tobacco	3.6	4.1	6.0	1.3	0.8
Clothing and footwear	-0.9	-0.9	-3.5	1.1	-5.4
Housing	7.4	4.6	5.5	0.8	0.5
Household contents and services	2.3	-0.7	2.7	1.1	0.3
Health	5.3	5.4	5.2	-0.6	4.2
Transportation	2.4	4.7	-5.8	-6.5	-2.6
Communication	1.3	0.3	1.0	0.4	0.4
Recreation	1.9	2.0	-0.2	0.9	-0.5
Education	6.9	7.8	5.3	-	5.3
Financial and insurance services(b)	2.0	5.7	0.2	-0.6	-5.9

- nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
(a) Unless otherwise specified, base of each index: 1989-90 = 100.0.
(b) Base of index: June quarter 2005 = 100.0.
Source: **Consumer Price Index, Australia,** cat. no. 6401.0.

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Wage Price Index

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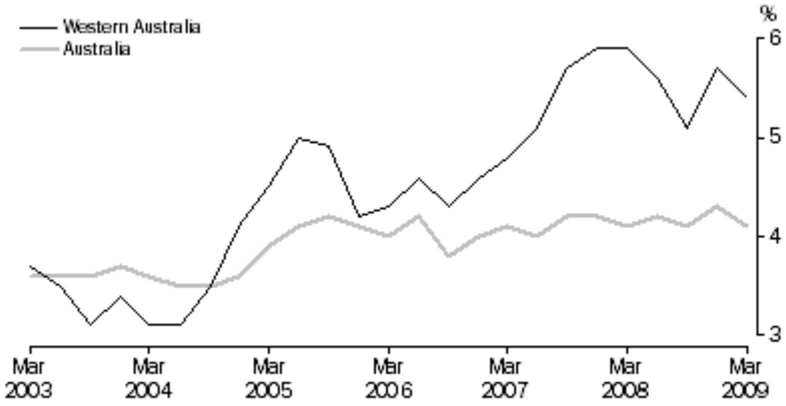
WAGE PRICE INDEX

- In the March quarter 2009, Western Australia's Wage Price Index (WPI) increased 0.8%, considerably less than in the three previous quarters (1.4%, 1.3% and 1.8%).
- The State's 'all sector' WPI rise of 0.8% was slightly higher than the national rise of 0.7% and on par with the rise in New South Wales, Tasmania and the Northern Territory. The Australian Capital Territory had the largest increase of 1.1%.
- Through the year to March 2009, Western Australia's WPI grew 5.4%. The state's annual increase to March 2009 was considerably higher than the national annual increase of 4.1%.

Wage price index, Change from same quarter previous year



Source: *Labour Price Index, Australia*, cat. no. 6345.0.

- In the March quarter 2009, wages rose for both the private (0.7%) and the public sector (1.0%). This followed higher increases in the previous quarter of 1.4% and 3.1% in the private and public sector respectively.
- Wages growth was recorded in various industries including construction (2.5%), education (1.4%), health and community services and retail trade (both 1.2%) in the March quarter.
- Through the year to March 2009, construction had the strongest wage price growth (8.5%) followed by property and business services (6.5%) and education (6.3%).

2 Wage Price Index (a), Total Hourly Rates of Pay Excluding Bonuses: Original

	Mar 08	Dec 08	Mar 09	Change from: Previous qtr	Change from: Same qtr previous year
	index	index	index	%	%
Western Australia	**121.2**	**126.8**	**127.8**	**0.8**	**5.4**
Sector					
Private	121.9	127.4	128.3	0.7	5.3
Public	118.7	124.8	126.0	1.0	6.1
Selected Industries					
Mining	127.6	133.9	134.6	0.5	5.5
Manufacturing	121.9	127.7	128.3	0.5	5.3
Construction	137.8	145.9	149.5	2.5	8.5
Retail trade	118.2	121.4	122.8	1.2	3.9
Accommodation, cafes & restaurants	116.4	120.4	120.6	0.2	3.6
Transport and storage	118.1	124.5	125.2	0.6	6.0
Property & business services	120.6	128.2	128.4	0.2	6.5
Govt admin & defence	118.8	124.9	125.2	0.2	5.4
Education	118.4	124.1	125.8	1.4	6.3
Health & community services	117.8	122.4	123.9	1.2	5.2
Personal & other services	122.1	127.9	128.6	0.5	5.3

(a) Base of each index: 2003-04 = 100.0.
Source: ABS data available on request, **Labour Price Index, Australia,** cat. no. 6345.0.

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House Price Indexes

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HOUSE PRICE INDEXES

- Preliminary estimates show that the established homes price index for Perth fell for the fifth consecutive quarter, with a decrease of 3.6% in March 2009. This is the largest quarterly decrease since the series began in March 2002. By comparison, the price index for established homes across the eight capital cities (weighted average) decreased by 2.2% in the March 2009 quarter.
- In the same quarter, the price index for project homes in Perth decreased 0.4%, the first decrease since March 2001.The weighted average price index for project homes across the eight capital cities showed a similar fall (0.5%).

3 House Price Indexes(a) **- Perth**

Reference period	**ESTABLISHED HOMES**(b)	**Change from previous period**(b)	**PROJECT HOMES**	**Change from previous period**
	index	%	index	%
2006-2007	192.8	32.3	144.1	10.6
2007-2008	r194.8	r1.1	148.7	3.2
2007				
December	197.6	1.1	148.3	0.5
2008				
March	195.3	-1.2	148.8	0.3
June	r190.8	r-2.3	150.0	0.8
September	186.6	-2.2	152.5	1.7
December	p182.0	p-2.5	154.0	1.0
2009				
March	p175.5	p-3.6	153.4	-0.4

p preliminary figure or series subject to revision
r revised
(a) Base of each index 2003-04 = 100.0.
(b) Estimates for the two most recent quarters are experimental (see paragraph 12 and 13 of the Explanatory Notes in the source publication).
Source: **House Price Indexes, Eight Capital Cities,** cat. no. 6416.0.

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Price indexes of materials used in building

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PRICE INDEXES OF MATERIALS USED IN BUILDING

- In the March quarter 2009, the increase in the price materials for house building in Western Australia (1.2%) was almost on par with the previous quarter (1.1%).
- Through the the year to March 2009 the price index for these materials rose just over 8%. This was around 1 percentage point higher than the national rise. Together with Hobart, Perth had the second largest annual price increase after Adelaide (almost 11%).
- Steel products continued to contribute to the price increase. In the year to March 2009, there was a 43% rise in the index price of these house building materials.

4 Price Index of Materials Used in House Building(a)**, by Material - Perth**

				Percentage change	
Material group	**Mar 08** index	**Dec 08** index	**Mar 09** index	**Dec Qtr 2008 to Mar Qtr 2009** %	**Mar Qtr 2008 to Mar Qtr 2009** %
All groups	**152.0**	**162.3**	**164.3**	**1.2**	**8.1**
Timber, board and joinery	141.0	143.7	143.7	-	1.9
Ceramic products	161.7	164.2	165.0	0.5	2.0
Concrete, cement and sand	157.5	171.8	170.9	-0.5	8.5
Cement products	134.5	136.5	137.0	0.4	1.9
Steel products	188.8	249.4	270.0	8.3	43.0
Other metal products	148.2	162.5	163.3	0.5	10.2
Plumbing products	138.7	145.8	147.8	1.4	6.6
Electrical equipment	116.2	120.8	125.8	4.1	8.3
Installed gas and electrical appliances	140.7	145.2	147.1	1.3	4.5
Other materials	172.1	180.0	180.5	0.3	4.9

- nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
(a) Reference base of each index: 1989-90 = 100.0
Source: **Producer Price Indexes, Australia,** cat. no. 6427.0.

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Consumption

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CONSUMPTION

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Retail

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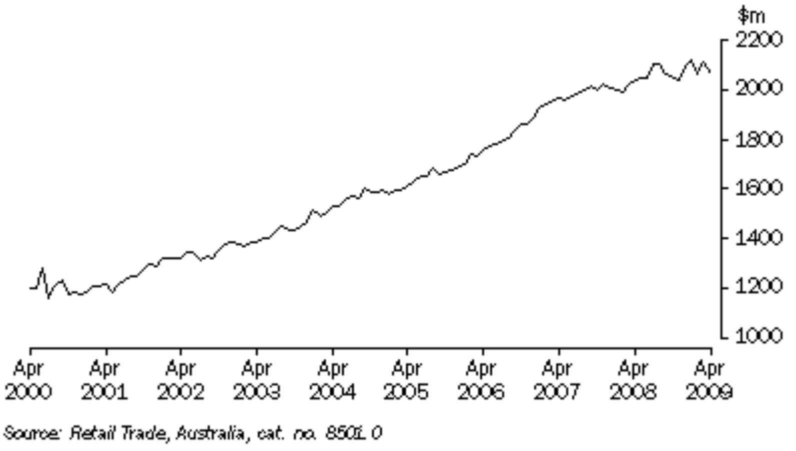
RETAIL

- The retail trade trend series was suspended in November 2008 as it is not possible to determine the trend in retail turnover for the period affected by the government's economic stimulus packages and other influences associated with global economic conditions.
- In seasonally adjusted terms, monthly retail turnover in Western Australia decreased by 2.4% in April 2009 following an increase (2.2%) in March 2009.
- While there were small fluctuations in the seasonally adjusted data through the year, monthly retail turnover in Western Australia has not fallen below $2 billion since February 2008. The government's stimulus packages may have had some effect in maintaining relatively high turnover.
- The April 2009 decrease in turnover was spread across all major retail trade groups, except household goods (up $19 million). Department stores (down $21 million) and clothing and soft goods retailers (down $12 million) were among those that experienced larger decreases in retail turnover in the month of April.

Monthly Retail Turnover, Current prices **-** Seasonally adjusted



1 Retail Trade(a)**, Monthly turnover - Current prices: All series**

	Food	Dept stores	Clothing & soft good	Household good	Other retail	Cafes & restaurants(b)	Total
Seasonally adjusted ($m)							
2008							
April	757.2	174.4	146.7	352.7	326.7	281.3	2 038.9

May	769.2	172.1	144.9	353.3	330.1	279.4	2 049.1
June	770.7	168.8	142.5	355.1	327.9	286.1	2 051.1
July	801.0	181.7	143.2	361.4	328.6	286.4	2 102.4
August	814.9	173.6	138.9	360.2	327.3	289.8	2 104.7
September	799.2	178.8	133.8	347.0	321.3	284.4	2 064.5
October	796.9	174.7	124.6	346.1	319.8	286.5	2 048.6
November	812.0	166.6	120.6	341.5	315.2	284.1	2 040.0
December	805.7	181.3	128.3	381.2	333.4	266.9	2 096.7
2009							
January	845.3	185.6	124.8	366.4	336.8	266.8	2 125.7
February	835.5	161.7	124.7	351.0	316.7	278.6	2 068.3
March	830.0	186.6	134.7	352.3	326.1	284.4	2 114.1
April	812.0	165.4	122.8	371.2	309.3	283.2	2 064.0

(a) For industry definitions see paragraph 6 of the Explanatory Notes in the source publications.
(b) Includes takeaway food services.
Source: **Retail Trade, Australia,** cat. no. 8501.0.
Note: As of July 2008, all historical data have been revised as a result of changes to the survey design.

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New motor vehicle sales

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NEW MOTOR VEHICLE SALES

- Sales of new motor vehicles (trend) have declined for fifteen consecutive months in Western Australia after peaking at 10,381 in February 2008. In May 2009, new motor vehicles sales (8,055) were 2.4% lower than in February 2009 and 22% lower than in February 2008.
- This overall decline in motor vehicle sales in the three months to May 2009, was driven by continuing falls in the sale of passenger vehicles and utilities, vans, trucks, buses and other commercial vehicles.
- By contrast, sales of sports utility vehicles increased from 1,748 in February 2009 to 1,812 in May 2009 (3.7%), after falling over the previous year.

New Motor Vehicle Sales

Note: Break in trend series between June and July 2000.
Source: *Sales of New Motor Vehicles, Australia*, cat. no. 9314.0.

2 New Motor Vehicle Sales, by type of vehicle: Trend

Month	Passenger vehicles no.	Sports utility vehicles no.	Other vehicles no.	Total vehicles no.
Trend				
2008				
March	5 492	2 243	2 597	10 332
April	5 470	2 196	2 559	10 225
May	5 446	2 133	2 509	10 088
June	5 401	2 070	2 467	9 938
July	5 307	2 018	2 448	9 772
August	5 161	1 972	2 450	9 583
September	4 995	1 926	2 450	9 371
October	4 839	1 876	2 424	9 139
November	4 701	1 818	2 356	8 875
December	4 595	1 770	2 251	8 616
2009				
January	4 512	1 746	2 148	8 407
February	4 440	1 748	2 068	8 256
March	4 371	1 764	2 014	8 149
April	4 308	1 785	1 980	8 073
May	4 270	1 812	1 973	8 055

Source: **Sales of New Motor Vehicles, Australia,** cat. no. 9314.0.

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International merchandise trade

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INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE

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Exports

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EXPORTS

- Western Australia's trade surplus in the March quarter 2009 ($14.6 billion) was 41% higher than the surplus in the same quarter of the previous year.
- The value of exports from Western Australia was 34% higher in the March 2009 quarter than in the corresponding quarter of 2008, up from $17 billion to $23 billion.
- China was the main export destination, receiving goods from Western Australia to the value of $7.6 billion. This was over $3 billion more than in the corresponding quarter of the previous year. Over the year the value of exports to United Kingdom more than doubled, from $1.6 billion to $4 billion.
- Exports to India, though declining slightly in the last two quarters, have exceeded $1 billion for the last five consecutive quarters.
- Export values to Japan, after rising for several quarters and reaching $6.3 billion in December 2008, fell sharply to $3.6 billion in the March quarter 2009. In addition, there was a significant drop in the value of exports to United States of America. After a high degree of volatility in recent quarters, this fell to $315 million, almost 38% lower than the corresponding figure for March 2008 ($507 million). Exports to Singapore also dropped significantly in value, from a peak of $929 million in June 2008 to $660 million in March 2009.

1 International Merchandise Trade(a)**, Exports - top 10 countries: Original**

	EXPORTS		
Country	**Mar 08** $'000	**Dec 08** $'000	**Mar 09** $'000
China	4 264 518	5 588 990	7 642 407
United Kingdom	1 624 468	1 691 116	4 048 182
Japan	3 109 008	6 257 509	3 648 702
Korea, Republic of	1 323 613	2 093 439	1 657 132
India	1 436 002	1 379 192	1 253 780
Singapore	927 253	675 031	660 112

Taiwan	410 765	482 274	348 756
United Arab Emirates	243 933	780 170	346 187
Thailand	321 206	631 919	327 972
United States of America	506 870	585 955	314 750
Total Export(b)	**17 381 301**	**23 323 436**	**23 315 370**

(a) Free on board (f.o.b.) value
(b) Includes countries not listed.
Source: ABS data available on request, **International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia,** cat. no. 5368.0

- In terms of commodities exported, iron ore and concentrates; and non-monetary gold continued to be the leading exports from Western Australia in the March quarter 2009, with export values of $8.9 billion and $5.5 billion respectively.
- The export value of iron ore and concentrates remained firm in March 2009, slightly higher than the December figure of $8.5 billion and almost $4 billion higher than the figure for the March quarter 2008.
- The export value of non-monetary gold also continued to rise. This figure was about $1.5 billion higher than in December 2008 and $2.3 billion higher than in March 2008, reflecting a recent increase in the overseas demand for gold during the current global financial crisis. Other major commodities contributing to the growth in export values since March 2008 included wheat and natural gas, although the value of natural gas exported has declined since December.

2 International Merchandise Trade(a), by major commodity

Category of the SITC	Mar 08 $'000	Dec 08 $'000	Mar 09 $'000
MAJOR EXPORT COMMODITIES(b)			
Iron ore and concentrates	4 870 476	8 563 498	8 867 427
Gold, non-monetary	3 285 861	4 029 442	5 544 729
Confidential items	2 423 849	2 252 723	2 051 990
Natural gas	1 233 681	2 933 244	1 738 943
Crude petroleum oils	2 275 741	1 907 235	1 507 906
Wheat	451 000	673 244	829 862
Nickel ores and concentrates	309 954	311 002	186 232
Ores and concentrates of base metal	173 195	110 218	173 253
Nickel	147 262	100 344	133 819
Liquefied propane and butane	175 536	181 147	122 766
Live animals	96 469	144 179	104 620
Crustaceans, molluscs and aquatic invertebrates	85 445	64 570	96 563
Pigments, paints, varnishes and related materials	90 861	94 680	85 835
Wool and other animal hair	77 028	69 784	85 630
Refined petroleum oils	140 022	98 525	74 822
Total exports(c)	**17 381 301**	**23 323 436**	**23 315 370**

(a) Care should be taken when comparing with commodities data prior to July 2005. For full details about changes to international trade statistics, users should refer to the Information Paper: Impact of introducing Revision 4 of the Standard International Trade Classification, 2008 (cat. no. 5368.0.55.10).
(b) Free on board (f.o.b.) value
(c) Includes categories not listed.
Source: ABS data available on request, **International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia,** cat. no. 5368.0.

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Imports

IMPORTS

- In the March quarter 2009, Western Australia received its largest value of imports from Thailand ($1.8 billion), followed by Singapore ($1.4 billion) and United States of America ($0.9 billion).
- The value of imports from Thailand in March quarter 2009 was over twice that recorded in the December quarter and three times the value ($585 million) in March quarter 2008.
- Non-monetary gold to the value of $1.4 billion, accounted for 80% of the total value of imports from Thailand in the March quarter 2009. Gold, in the form of leaf, foil, bullion and other fabricated gold products including granules, is sent to Western Australia where it is processed before exportation under a different commodity classification. The recent increase in the value of non-monetary gold imports from Thailand follows a similar spike in the value of non-monetary gold imports from the United Kingdom in the previous quarter.

3 International Merchandise Trade(a)**, Imports - top 10 countries: Original**

	IMPORTS		
Country	**Mar 08** $'000	**Dec 08** $'000	**Mar 09** $'000
Thailand	584 824	725 461	1 785 255
Singapore	931 833	1 514 646	1 429 559
United States of America	643 236	1 103 939	929 753
Japan	810 582	661 834	788 921
China	456 943	723 927	689 754
Indonesia	281 513	271 198	355 824
Malaysia	474 637	241 487	351 138
United Kingdom	370 712	1 640 269	244 099
Germany	248 947	327 030	242 445
United Arab Emirates	442 809	240 868	214 937
Total exports(b)	**7 059 836**	**9 329 880**	**8 756 728**

(a) Customs value.
(b) Includes countries not listed.
Source: ABS data available on request, **International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia,** cat. no. 5368.0

- The value of imports for Western Australia were 24% higher in the March quarter 2009 than in the March quarter 2008 ($8.8 billion compared with just over $7 billion).
- Driving the increase in import values was non-monetary gold, which rose to $3.3 billion and accounted for 38% of the total value of all imports for Western Australia in the March quarter 2009. The import value of this commodity was almost double that of the corresponding quarter in the previous year.
- Among other major commodities that contributed to the rise in import values was iron/steel tubes and pipes, with an import value more than treble that of the March quarter 2008.

4 International Merchandise Trade(a)**, by major commodity: Original**

Category of the SITC	Mar 08 $'000	Dec 08 $'000	Mar 09 $'000
MAJOR IMPORT COMMODITIES(b)			
Gold, non-monetary	1 751 534	2 504 780	3 341 962
Crude petroleum oils	895 150	406 764	572 910
Refined petroleum oils	505 363	1 095 392	359 190
Iron or steel tubes and pipes	79 411	155 166	274 835
Confidential items	223 369	407 573	263 002
Civil engineering plant and equipment	392 476	323 773	234 791
Passenger motor vehicles	397 576	360 685	224 110
Motor vehicles for the transport of goods	290 057	298 126	215 487
Other specialised industry machinery and equipment	123 851	125 768	118 795
Fertilisers	185 273	284 307	110 295
Ships, boats and floating structures	34 434	47 461	85 043
Rubber tyres	80 470	105 170	78 359
Automatic data processing machines	31 318	55 299	36 630
Aircraft and associated equipment	65 379	43 290	11 216
Parts and accessories of office machines	4 535	9 254	7 116
Total imports(c)	**7 059 836**	**9 329 880**	**8 756 728**

(a) Care should be taken when comparing with commodities data prior to July 2005. For full details about changes to international trade statistics, users should refer to the Information Paper: Impact of introducing Revision 4 of the Standard International Trade Classification, 2008 (cat. no. 5368.0.55.10).
(b) Customs value
(c) Includes categories not listed.
Source: ABS data available on request, **International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia,** cat. no. 5368.0.

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Investment and finance

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INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

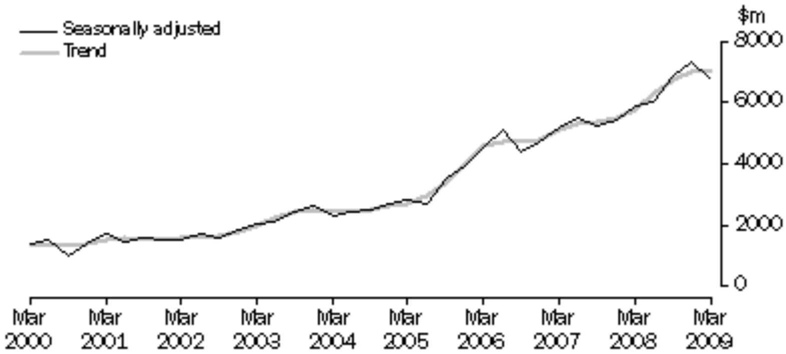
This section contains the following subsection :

Private new capital expenditure

PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

- Western Australia's private new capital expenditure, in trend chain volume terms, was just over $7 billion in the March quarter 2009. However, increases in expenditure in the last three quarters have slowed from a peak of 8.9% in June 2008 to 1.3% for March 2009. Nationally, private new capital expenditure fell by 0.7% in the March quarter 2009.
- The easing of private capital expenditure growth in trend terms resulted from significant falls in original and seasonally adjusted data series. A 23% contraction in original terms for the March quarter 2009, following a rise of 24% in the previous quarter, translates to a seasonally adjusted decrease of 8% from its peak in December.
- In trend terms, there was an increase in investments in buildings and structures, which accounted for just over $5 billion of the $7 billion in new private capital expenditure. In contrast, expenditure on equipment, plant and machinery decreased to just under $2 billion.

Private New Capital Expenditure, Chain volume measures



Note: Break in trend series between December 2006 and March 2007.
Source: *Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia, cat. no. 5625.0.*

1 Private New Capital Expenditure, by type of asset - Chain volume measures(a)**: Trend**

	Trend		
Reference period	Buildings and structures $m	Equipment, plant and machinery $m	Total $m
2006-2007	(b)13 384	(b)6 486	(b)19 859
2007-2008	14 788	8 025	22 816
2007			
December	3 568	1 898	5 466

2008			
March	3 666	2 072	5 737
June	4 007	2 241	6 248
September	4 472	2 238	6 707
December	4 870	2 118	6 986
2009			
March	5 080	1 966	7 074

(a) Reference year for chain volume measures is 2006-07.
(b) Break in series between December 2006 and March 2007.
Source: **Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia,** cat. no. 5625.0.

- In the March quarter, the mining industry continued to account for a significant proportion (77%) of all private capital investment in Western Australia (original data).
- New capital expenditure on mining was, however, significantly lower than in the previous quarter (down 22%) in original terms and therefore reduced total private new capital expenditure. By contrast, private new capital expenditure for the December quarter 2008 ($8.6 billion in original terms) was the highest recorded since the series began in June 1989, with the industries of mining and manufacturing, particularly, at their highest levels.

2 Private New Capital Expenditure, by industry - Current prices: Original

Reference period	Mining $m	Manufacturing $m	Other selected industries $m	Total $m
2006-2007	13 542	1 492	4 683	19 717
2007-2008	17 111	1 653	4 428	23 191
2007				
December	4 250	^481	^1 280	6 011
2008				
March	4 264	^409	904	5 577
June	4 995	^445	1 141	6 580
September	5 383	^409	1 107	6 899
December	6 611	532	^1 504	8 647
2009				
March	5 132	435	^1 057	6 623

^ estimate has a relative standard error of 10% to less than 25% and should be used with caution
Source: **Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia,** cat. no. 5625.0.

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Lending finance commitments

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LENDING FINANCE COMMITMENTS

- In original terms commercial finance lending commitments decreased in value by more than 4% in the month of April 2009. This followed an increase in March of almost 35%, mainly attributable to the sharp rise in fixed loans (45%). These have fallen a little in April 2009 as did the value of revolving credit for commercial purposes.
- The value of personal finance commitments decreased by nearly 10% in the month of April 2009 after a small rise (almost 4%) in the month of March, with fixed loans (up 15%) as the main contributor to the increase.

3 Lending Finance Commitments: Original

	COMMERCIAL FINANCE		
Reference period	**Fixed loans**(a) $m	**Revolving credit**(b) $m	**Total** $m
2006-2007	23 634.6	13 340.5	36 975.1
2007-2008	28 782.8	11 379.3	40 891.1
2008			
February	1 770.2	1 000.9	2 771.1
March	2 319.6	908.5	3 228.0
April	2 492.7	837.1	3 329.8
May	2 307.3	815.3	3 122.7
June	2 397.4	873.5	3 270.9
July	1 975.9	1 337.0	3 312.9
August	1 959.8	1 272.7	3 232.5
September	1 989.7	896.4	2 886.1
October	2 140.4	719.6	2 859.9
November	1 610.7	783.5	2 394.2
December	1 722.0	1 234.8	2 956.8
2009			
January	1 468.6	991.4	2 459.9
February	1 274.6	731.8	2 006.5
March	1 847.8	855.5	2 703.4
April	1 648.6	666.3	2 314.9

(a) Includes refinancing.
(b) New and increased credit limits during the period. Includes credit cards.
Source: **Lending Finance, Australia,** cat. no. 5671.0.

4 Lending Finance Commitments: Original

	PERSONAL FINANCE		
Reference period	**Fixed loans**(a) $m	**Revolving credit**(b) $m	**Total** $m
2006-2007	6 768.2	6 257.2	13 025.4
2007-2008	6 251.9	6 524.9	12 776.8
2008			
February	506.3	539.1	1 045.4
March	459.9	520.6	980.5
April	501.9	537.8	1 039.6
May	482.9	564.5	1 047.3
June	548.6	542.0	1 090.5
July	485.5	626.7	1 112.1
August	425.4	449.7	875.1
September	459.5	481.6	941.1

	October	447.7	549.3	996.9
	November	350.7	446.8	797.5
	December	424.9	490.1	915.1
2009				
	January	401.8	455.1	856.9
	February	442.6	461.6	904.2
	March	510.0	429.4	939.4
	April	460.6	386.6	847.2

(a) Includes refinancing.
(b) New and increased credit limits during the period. Includes credit cards.
Source: **Lending Finance, Australia,** cat. no. 5671.0.

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Housing finance commitments

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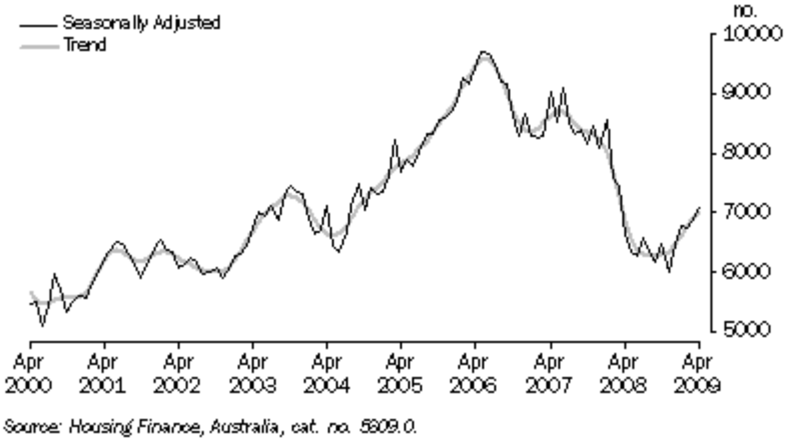
HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS

- In April 2009, the number of dwellings financed (trend) has continued its steady climb from September 2008, exceeding 7,000 for the first time since March 2008. Falling bank interest rates and government initiatives to stimulate the economy continued to have a positive effect on housing finance commitments.
- In April 2009, the number of dwellings financed was 1.6% higher than in March 2009, 6.1% higher than in January 2009 and 1.8% higher than in April 2008.

Housing Finance Commitments, Number of dwellings financed



- The value of housing commitments has continued to rise since July 2008. In the month of April 2009, this value was 3% higher than in March 2009 and almost 11% higher than in January 2009.
- The total value of housing commitments had risen in the year to April 2009 from $1.67 billion to $1.96 billion.

5 Housing Finance Commitments for Owner Occupation(a), by dwellings financed: Trend

	Trend	
Reference period	Number of dwellings financed no.	Total value of dwelling commitments $m
2006-07	104 795	23 240.9
2007-08	93 316	22 289.2
2008		
February	7 687	1 840.8
March	7 285	1 756.1
April	6 891	1 669.9
May	6 584	1 601.9
June	6 395	1 562.1
July	6 302	1 550.4
August	6 275	1 561.9
September	6 272	1 584.9
October	6 295	1 613.8
November	6 353	1 651.6
December	6 463	1 703.2
2009		
January	6 611	1 767.2
February	6 764	1 835.6
March	6 905	1 902.2
April	7 016	1 958.6

(a) Excludes alterations and additions. Includes refinancing.
Source: **Housing Finance, Australia,** cat. no. 5609.0.

- In original terms, the number of loans to first home buyers in March 2009 (2,091) was the highest since the index began in July 1991. Furthermore, this was only the second time this number had exceeded 2,000 since March 1994. This suggests that new home buyers were continuing to take advantage of lower interest rates, falling house prices and the Federal Government's first home buyers' grants.
- Following the peak in March 2009, the number of dwellings financed for first home buyers decreased slightly in the month of April (-5.9%). However, this number (1,967) was 50% higher than the comparable number for April 2008 (1,309).
- The size of the average loan increased over the year for first home buyers, rising by 21% from $246,400 in April 2008 to $297,800 in April 2009.

6 Housing Finance Commitments for Owner Occupation(a), by type of buyer: Original

	FIRST HOME BUYERS		
Reference period	Number of dwellings financed no.	Total value of dwelling commitments $m	Average loan size $'000
2006-2007	13 789	3 027.2	219.5
2007-2008	16 445	3 956.9	240.6
2008			
February	1 325	310.1	234.0
March	1 161	272.1	234.4
April	1 309	322.5	246.4

May	1 207	301.0	249.4
June	1 260	298.5	236.9
July	1 425	355.7	249.6
August	1 264	321.1	254.0
September	1 240	316.9	255.6
October	1 307	348.1	266.4
November	1 384	389.8	281.7
December	1 774	487.9	275.1
2009			
January	1 612	455.2	282.4
February	1 775	530.9	299.1
March	2 091	611.9	292.7
April	1 967	585.8	297.8

(a) Excludes alterations and additions. Includes refinancing.
Source: **Housing Finance, Australia,** cat. no. 5609.0

- For buyers of second and subsequent homes, the number of dwellings financed each month has been volatile during the year to April 2009. Following a sharp rise (over 15%) in the month of March 2009 , it fell almost 10% in the month of April. The April 2009 figure (4,761) was almost 17% lower than the comparable figure for April 2008 (5,714).

7 Housing Finance Commitments for Owner Occupation(a), by type of buyer: Original

Reference period	NON-FIRST HOME BUYERS		
	Number of dwellings financed	Total value of dwelling commitments	Average loan size
	no.	$m	$'000
2006-2007	90 808	20 421.5	224.9
2007-2008	76 326	18 247.3	239.1
2008			
February	6 131	1 503.8	245.3
March	5 664	1 358.5	239.8
April	5 714	1 394.7	244.1
May	5 516	1 339.6	242.9
June	5 165	1 281.5	248.1
July	5 684	1 423.4	250.4
August	5 193	1 286.9	247.8
September	4 788	1 207.3	252.2
October	5 281	1 364.8	258.4
November	4 442	1 096.2	246.8
December	4 866	1 247.0	256.3
2009			
January	4 247	1 073.2	252.7
February	4 575	1 165.9	254.8
March	5 280	1 424.3	269.8
April	4 761	1 317.2	276.7

(a) Excludes alterations and additions. Includes refinancing.
Source: **Housing Finance, Australia,** cat. no. 5609.0

- In April 2009, the total value of finance commitments for dwellings under construction (owner occupied) rose for the third consecutive month. This month's figure (over $246 million) is the second highest since the index began in 1975, with the highest value occurring in August 2006.
- While the value of finance commitments for new dwellings purchased for owner occupation fell around 13% in the month of April 2009, there was an increase in this

value of 39% between April 2008 and April 2009.

- The value of finance commitments for other established dwellings purchased for owner occupation had increased nearly 26% in the month of March 2009, but decreased almost 6% in April. However, the value of other established homes purchased for owner occupation is still over $1 billion.

8 Housing Finance Commitments(a), by purpose: Original

	OWNER OCCUPATION (SECURED FINANCE)			
	Construction of dwellings	**Purchase of new dwellings**	**Purchase of other established dwellings**	**Refinancing of established dwellings**
Reference period	$m	$m	$m	$m
2006-2007	2 311.2	1 224.6	12 973.4	6 939.6
2007-2008	2 270.0	969.9	12 609.9	6 354.3
2008				
February	181.9	70.7	1 035.9	525.3
March	170.0	56.7	916.9	487.0
April	188.5	54.3	944.6	529.8
May	202.2	54.2	863.5	520.7
June	181.8	66.0	821.3	510.9
July	236.4	65.9	895.7	581.0
August	196.6	61.4	819.7	530.3
September	180.4	62.5	813.7	467.6
October	202.9	64.7	937.0	508.4
November	172.2	57.7	789.3	466.9
December	195.5	67.2	929.1	543.1
2009				
January	195.2	51.3	827.0	454.9
February	209.8	70.9	944.6	471.5
March	236.1	86.5	1 188.1	525.5
April	246.3	75.6	1 120.8	460.4

(a) Excludes alterations and additions. Includes refinancing.
Source: **Housing Finance, Australia,** cat. no. 5609.0; **Lending Finance, Australia,** cat. no. 5671.0.

- The value of finance commitments for dwellings purchased by individuals for investment purposes increased by 2.4% in the month of April 2009 after a substantial increase (almost 22%) in the previous month.

9 Housing Finance Commitments(a),by purpose: Original

	INVESTMENT HOUSING(b)		
	Construction of dwellings for rent or resale	**Purchase of dwellings by individuals for rent or release**	**Purchase of dwellings by others for rent or resale**
Reference period	$m	$m	$m
2006-2007	404.2	9 511.9	717.1
2007-2008	444.0	8 476.6	841.7
2008			
February	31.5	643.4	69.8
March	np	557.1	37.3
April	np	624.3	68.8

May	48.5	634.6	60.6
June	81.9	697.5	124.2
July	105.9	622.4	73.8
August	69.1	584.1	60.9
September	41.0	563.0	43.2
October	np	632.3	33.1
November	66.7	489.3	26.5
December	95.3	513.8	57.3
2009			
January	np	406.4	41.4
February	np	442.7	26.8
March	35.1	538.7	35.8
April	30.7	551.5	35.9

np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated
(a) Excludes alterations and additions. Includes refinancing.
(b) Excludes revolving credit.
Source: **Housing Finance, Australia,** cat. no. 5609.0; **Lending Finance, Australia,** cat. no. 5671.0.

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Construction

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CONSTRUCTION

This section contains the following subsection :
- Building approvals
- Building activity

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Building approvals

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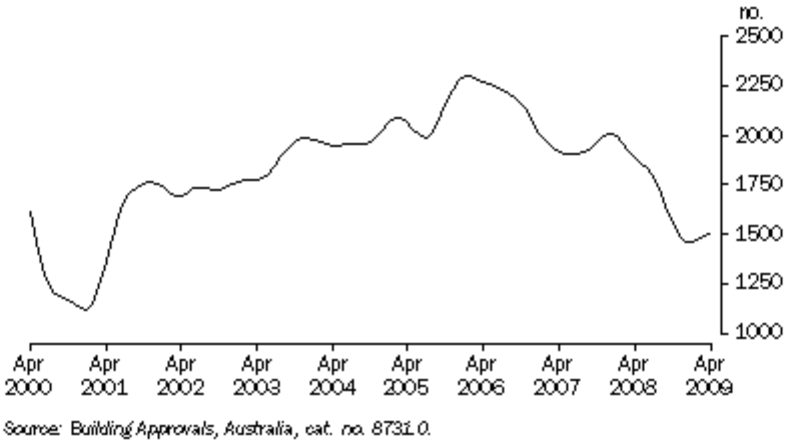
BUILDING APPROVALS

- The total number of dwellings approved (trend) in Western Australia increased by

1.1% to 4,458 dwellings in the April 2009 quarter, following a decrease of nearly 11% in the previous quarter.

- This small increase in the April quarter was driven primarily by approvals for higher density residential dwellings, including semi detached houses; townhouses and flats; and units and apartments. The number of approvals for these dwellings rose by 6.5%, in trend terms, to 767 dwellings in the April quarter 2009. However this was only half the figure recorded in the corresponding quarter of 2008.
- In the three months to April 2009, the total number of approvals for single houses remained relatively stable at 3,690, after a decrease of almost 9% in the previous three months.

Number of Dwellings Approved, Houses**:** Trend



1 Building Approvals, by number of dwelling units approved and sector: Trend

	Houses		Other dwellings		Total dwellings	
Reference period	Private no.	Total no.	Private no.	Total no.	Private no.	Total no.
2006-2007	19 158	19 605	4 423	5 015	23 580	24 619
2007-2008	16 701	17 253	5 358	5 924	22 060	23 179
2008						
April	4 083	4 231	1 407	1 532	5 489	5 763
July	4 088	4 165	1 218	1 311	5 306	5 477
October	3 975	4 051	809	892	4 785	4 942
2009						
January	3 621	3 693	625	720	4 246	4 411
April	3 581	3 690	643	767	4 223	4 458

Source: **Building Approvals, Australia,** cat. no. 8731.0.

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Building activity

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BUILDING ACTIVITY

- In the December quarter 2008, the number of new houses commenced increased by almost 20% (to 4,019 in original data terms), after a large decrease in the previous quarter. However, the number commenced was down 6% on the figure for the December quarter 2007 (4,262).
- By contrast, there was a steep quarterly fall in other residential commencements, to 427. This was only one quarter (23%) of the number recorded in the previous quarter and only 31% of the number in the same quarter in 2007. It was also the second lowest figure since the series began.
- In the December quarter 2008, there was a general decrease in the number of residential buildings under construction. Houses under construction fell by 8% while the figure for other residential buildings decreased by almost 13%. The total number of residential buildings under construction (18,741) was down by 6% in comparison with the December quarter 2007 (19,941) .
- In the last quarter of 2008, there was a substantial rise in the number of new houses (31%) and other residential buildings completed (36%), following a significant decrease in the previous quarter. However, in comparison with the December quarter 2007, the number of residential buildings completed was down by just under 4%.

2 Building Activity, by number of dwelling units and stage of production: Original

Reference period	New houses no.	New other residential building no.	Total residential building(a) no.
Commenced			
2006-2007	19 896	4 752	24 647
2007-2008	16 924	5 347	22 272
2007			
December	4 262	1 381	5 643
2008			
September	3 354	1 856	5 210
December	4 019	427	4 446
Under construction at end of reference period			
2006-2007	15 057	6 440	21 497
2007-2008	13 145	7 244	20 388
2007			
December	13 623	6 318	19 941
2008			
September	12 716	8 117	20 833
December	11 660	7 082	18 741
Completed			
2006-2007	20 952	3 881	24 834
2007-2008	18 739	4 475	23 214
2007			
December	4 965	1 571	6 536
2008			
September	3 801	982	4 783

December	4 968	1 335	6 302

(a) Excludes total alterations and additions, refurbishments and conversions.
Source: **Building Activity, Australia,** cat. no. 8752.0.

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Mining and energy

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MINING AND ENERGY

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Mineral exploration

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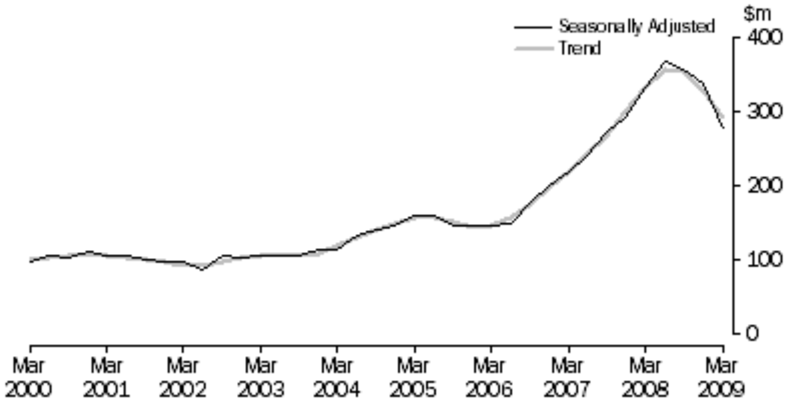
MINERAL EXPLORATION

- Expenditure on mineral exploration (trend) in Western Australia has experienced three successive quarterly declines. After smaller decreases in the September (1.2%) and December (7%) quarters 2008, it fell almost 11% in the March quarter 2009.
- The mineral exploration expenditure of $293 million for the March quarter fell below $300 million for the first time since September 2007 ($269 million).

Mineral Exploration Expenditure, Total minerals



Source: *Mineral and Petroleum Exploration, Australia*, cat. no. 8412.0.

- Original data shows no growth overall in mineral exploration in the March quarter 2009. Exploration expenditure on most minerals fell by more than 40%. Expenditure on gold exploration fell by a smaller amount (around 16%).
- Expenditure on petroleum exploration decreased slightly (-1.2%) to $789 million in the three months to March 2009. However, this was almost 60% higher than the figure for the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

1 Mineral and Petroleum Exploration Expenditure(a)**, by selected mineral: Original**

	Copper $m	**Silver, lead, zinc** $m	**Nickel, cobalt** $m	**Gold** $m	**Iron ore** $m	**Total minerals**(b) $m	**Total petroleum** $m
2006-2007	22.8	41.8	158.2	276.5	272.1	839.1	1 481.0
2007-2008	39.0	56.2	280.0	347.9	420.7	1 259.8	2 174.9
2007							
December	9.0	19.7	79.5	85.8	94.0	313.8	512.7
2008							
March	9.0	9.7	58.2	85.2	82.9	271.4	498.7
June	10.3	10.5	81.0	100.3	139.3	381.2	616.9
September	11.0	13.1	90.3	75.9	153.2	383.8	539.5
December	9.4	6.5	73.7	67.7	170.6	364.0	798.9
2009							
March	4.4	3.0	39.4	56.6	100.1	224.2	789.4

(a) Includes expenditure on Western Australia leases in the Zone of Cooperation Area B.
(b) Includes minerals not listed in the table.
Source: **Mineral and Petroleum Exploration, Australia,** cat. no. 8412.0.
Note: From July 2000 value data no longer contains Wholesale Sales Tax.

To view Excel spreadsheet: Mineral and Petroleum Exploration Expenditure

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Mineral production

MINERAL PRODUCTION

- In original terms, production of diamonds fell approximately 16% in the March quarter 2009, following three successive quarters of growth. Despite the decline in production, the March quarter 2009 figure was more than double the amount in the corresponding quarter of the previous year.
- Production of bauxite decreased by 1.6% in the same quarter, following successive increases in the two previous quarters. The March 2009 figure was slightly higher (1.7%) than the amount for the same quarter a year before.
- Production of iron ore increased marginally (0.8%) in the March quarter 2009, following a decrease of 15% in the previous quarter. In comparison with the same quarter of 2008, the production of iron ore in the March quarter 2009 remained virtually the same.

2 Mineral Production(a)**: Original**

		Selected minerals	
Reference period	**Diamonds** '000 carats	**Iron ore**(b) '000 tonnes	**Bauxite** '000 tonnes
2006-2007	24 622	281 157	41 363
2007-2008	16 528	313 505	41 398
2007			
December	6 145	78 352	10 415
2008			
March	2 277	77 262	10 363
June	3 126	85 949	10 409
September	4 839	90 458	10 584
December	5 428	76 642	10 712
2009			
March	4 579	77 277	10 544

(a) Latest figures are preliminary and subject to revision.
(b) For use in iron and steel making.
Source: ABARE, **Australian Mineral Statistics**

To view Excel spreadsheet: Mineral Production

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Energy production

ENERGY PRODUCTION

- Energy production in the form of electricity and crude oil fell in the March quarter 2009. In original terms, crude oil production decreased by 12% and electricity production by 2.7%. Natural gas production was fairly similar to that in the previous quarter.
- In annual terms, production increased for all major sources of energy in Western

Australia, with natural gas increasing by 15%, crude oil by almost 11% and electricity by 6% in the twelve months ending March 2009.

3 Energy Production: Original

Reference period		Energy	
	Electricity generated million kWh	**Crude oil** megalitres	**Natural gas** million m^3
2006-2007	22 460	19 940	27 199
2007-2008	22 794	12 293	27 499
2007			
December	5 615	4 625	7 267
2008			
March	6 209	4 190	6 617
June	5 326	4 604	6 646
September	6 197	3 448	6 431
December	6 760	5 304	7 603
2009			
March	6 577	4 645	7 612

Source: ABARE, **Australian Mineral Statistics;** ABS data available on request, **Manufacturing Production, Australia,** cat. no. 8301.0.55.001.

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Tourism

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TOURISM

This section contains the following subsection :

- Short-term arrivals on holiday
- Short-term departures on holiday

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Short-term arrivals on holiday

SHORT-TERM ARRIVALS ON HOLIDAY

- Over 243,000 overseas visitors arrived in Western Australia in the year ending June 2008. The top five countries of origin were the United Kingdom (25%); Singapore (16%); Japan and Malaysia (both over 8%); and New Zealand (6%).
- More than 62,000 overseas visitors arrived in the March quarter 2009. This is 4.5% fewer visitors than in the same quarter of the previous year. In particular, there were fewer visitors from United Kingdom (down 12%) and Japan (down 20%), reflecting the economic downturn in those countries. The number of visitors from South Africa was also significantly down in percentage terms (-30%).
- In comparison with the same quarter of 2008, the March quarter 2009 saw more overseas visitors from South-East Asia, particularly Malaysia, which had 25% more arrivals than in the same quarter of the previous year. In the last two quarters, the number of visitors from Malaysia was almost double the number from Japan.

1 Short-term Overseas Visitor Arrivals, top 10 countries of origin: Original

Countries	2007-08 no.	Mar qtr 08 no.	Jun qtr 08 no.	Sep qtr 08 no.	Dec qtr 08 no.	Mar qtr 09 no.
VISITOR ARRIVALS						
United Kingdom	60 755	21 611	8 138	8 548	20 471	19 136
Singapore	39 927	7 787	10 140	6 543	13 544	8 440
Japan	20 490	4 254	2 806	5 230	4 009	3 422
Malaysia	19 629	5 284	4 135	3 296	7 750	6 618
New Zealand	13 840	2 633	3 393	3 042	3 048	2 369
Indonesia	7 535	1 889	1 506	2 105	2 778	1 695
Thailand	6 338	528	1 528	598	768	735
South Africa	6 023	1 391	1 440	1 613	2 303	981
United States of America	5 601	1 594	1 458	669	1 461	1 423
Hong Kong	4 885	1 597	736	809	1 406	1 533
Europe	*35 497*	*9 692*	*5 317*	*6 901*	*12 459*	*9 331*
Total	**243 346**	**65 051**	**45 070**	**44 584**	**76 427**	**62 131**

To view Excel spreadsheet: Short-term Overseas Visitor Arrivals

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Short-term departures on holiday

SHORT-TERM DEPARTURES ON HOLIDAY

- Of the 425,000 Western Australians residents travelling abroad in 2007-08, almost

60% travelled to nearby South-East Asian countries. The top three destinations were Indonesia (25%), Thailand (15%) and Singapore (9%), followed by New Zealand and the United Kingdom (both about 7%).

- In the March quarter 2009, over 89,000 Western Australians departed for a short-term visit overseas, almost 8% more than in the same quarter of the previous year. However, the economic downturn may have resulted in greater numbers of Western Australians choosing less expensive holiday destinations. The most common destination was Indonesia, which had a 24% increase in the number of visitors from Western Australia compared with the March quarter of the previous year. Resident departures for Malaysia were also significantly higher (up 56%).
- By contrast, Thailand received fewer visitors from Western Australia in the March quarter 2009 compared with the same quarter of the previous year, possibly reflecting the political and personal safety concerns of would-be travellers. Numbers departing for Hong Kong and the United States of America were also significantly down.

2 Short-term Overseas Resident Departures(a)**, top 10 countries of destinations: Original**

Countries	2007-08 no.	Mar qtr 08 no.	Jun qtr 08 no.	Sep qtr 08 no.	Dec qtr 08 no.	Mar qtr 09 no.
RESIDENT DEPARTURES(b)						
Indonesia	104 097	23 516	29 161	40 082	33 932	29 148
Thailand	63 528	11 323	16 317	17 842	13 956	9 945
Singapore	37 324	6 805	7 511	8 888	8 946	7 493
New Zealand	31 039	8 155	5 014	8 413	8 663	7 495
United Kingdom(c)	29 650	3 366	9 613	11 938	5 297	3 032
Malaysia	23 960	5 435	5 010	7 443	8 327	8 500
United States of America	18 316	2 727	5 473	6 182	4 941	2 071
Hong Kong(d)	12 823	3 096	3 399	3 758	3 753	2 146
Japan	6 361	2 800	1 197	785	1 458	3 090
South Africa	4 892	866	1 137	1 209	1 619	1 070
Europe(e)	*32 867*	*2 303*	*11 668*	*13 371*	*4 923*	*2 061*
Total(f)	**425 093**	**82 825**	**109 970**	**138 398**	**116 083**	**89 392**

(a) Comprises travellers whose intended stay is less than 12 months.
(b) Residents departures by air on holiday to selected country of main destination.
(c) Includes Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Ireland
(d) Special Administrative Region of China.
(e) Excluding United Kingdom.
(f) Total includes countries not listed.
Source: ABS data available on request, **Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia,** cat. no. 3401.0.

To view Excel spreadsheet: Short-term Overseas Resident Departures

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The ups and downs of Western Australia's labour market (Feature Article)

FEATURE ARTICLE: THE UPS AND DOWNS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S

LABOUR MARKET

INTRODUCTION

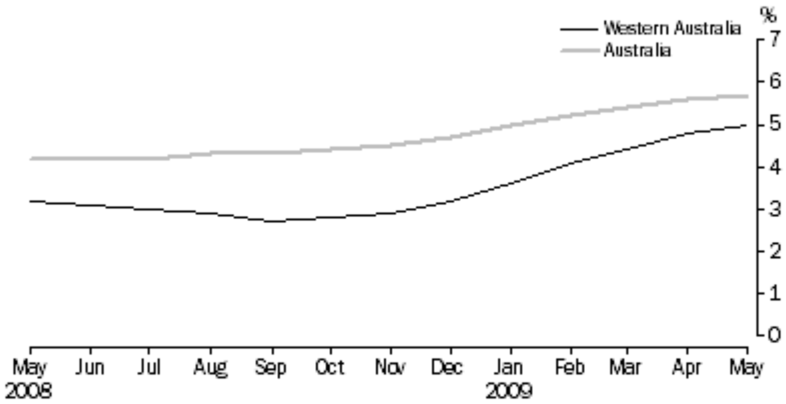
In September 2008, unemployment in Western Australia was at its lowest level on record (2.7% in trend estimate terms). Such a low unemployment rate had not been recorded previously anywhere in Australia, except the Australian Capital Territory (2.5% almost one year before). By contrast, the national unemployment rate was 4.3% and rising.

Despite the worsening global financial situation, Western Australia continued to benefit from the protracted resources boom until late 2008. However, the unprecedented fall in the unemployment rate, from 7.5% in June 2001 to its lowest point in September 2008, was followed by a sharp increase over the next eight months; and by May 2009 it had reached 5.0%.

This article presents an analysis of recent labour market trends in Western Australia and how these have impacted on particular industries and population groups (men, women and youth). State and national data from the last 30 years provide an historical perspective on unemployment, labour force participation and the changing structure of the employed labour force.

Trend data from the ABS Labour Force Survey are used for the analysis, except where original data series only are available. For readers requiring a better understanding of the data sources, brief explanations of salient methodological and data quality issues are provided in text boxes at appropriate points in the commentary.

Unemployment: Trend



Source: Labour Force, Australia, Spreadsheets, May 2009 (cat. no. 6202.0)

Why use trend data?

Labour force estimates are produced in three series: Original, Seasonally Adjusted and Trend.

Seasonal adjustment is an analytic technique that estimates systematic and calendar related influences and removes them from a series. This includes influences that impact seasonally, such as harvest times in farming cycles; and holiday periods including Christmas and Easter. Seasonally adjusted data are particularly useful in short-term forecasting and in allowing comparability from time period to time period. Trend series are formed by removing the irregular and non-seasonal influences from the seasonally

adjusted series. The trend component is defined as the 'long-term' movement in a time series and may be the result of factors such as population growth, price inflation and economic development. Trend estimates are used to analyse the underlying behaviour of a series over time, providing a more accurate indication of real movements in the labour force.

THE LABOUR FORCE EXPLAINED

The ABS Labour Force Survey is a household survey designed to produce measures of the economically active population according to guidelines and standards set by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The survey produces estimates of the population for three mutually exclusive categories; Employed, Unemployed and Not in the Labour Force.

The population for which estimates are made is confined to civilians aged 15 years and over who are usually resident in Australia. Overseas diplomatic and defence personnel stationed in Australia, and their dependants, are outside the scope of the survey. Due to practical collection difficulties and the low numbers involved, the survey also excludes Australian defence personnel.

The labour force is defined as all people in-scope of the survey who are either employed or unemployed.

Employed persons are those aged 15 years and over who, during the reference week:

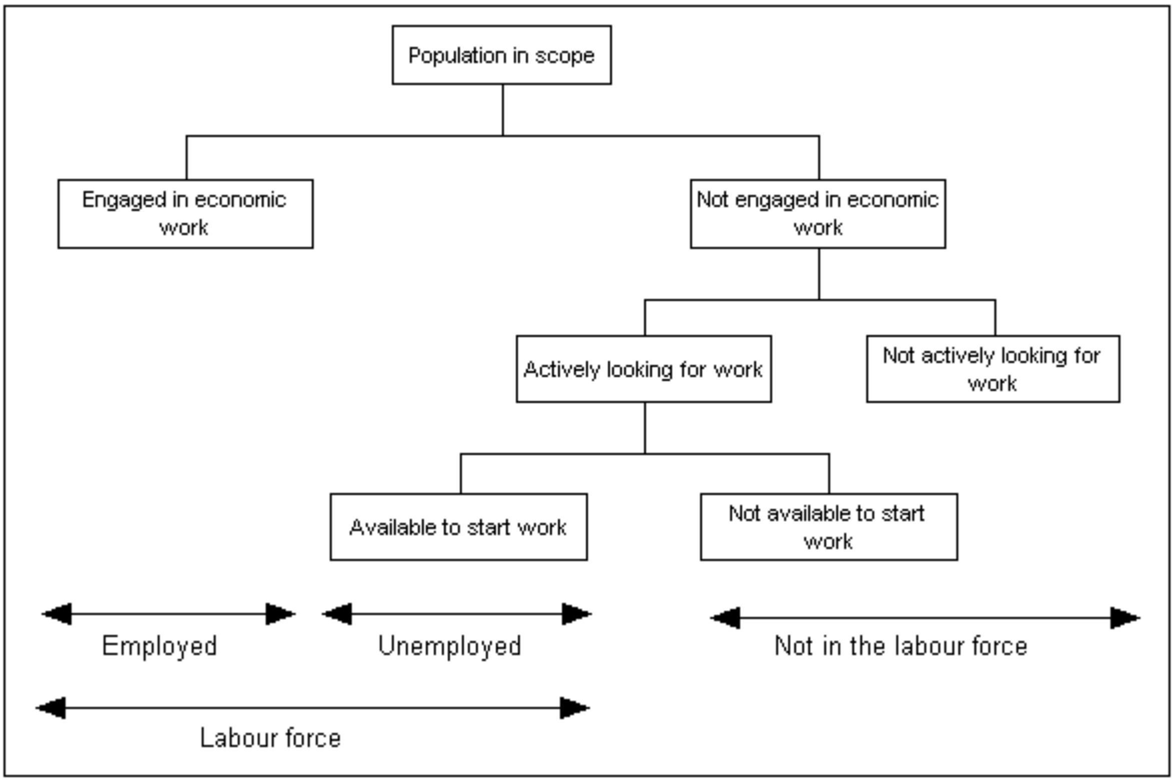
- worked for one hour or more for payment or profit in a job, business or farm, or as an unpaid helper in a family business; or
- had a job from which they were on leave or otherwise temporarily absent.

The employed labour force includes employees, employers and own-account workers.

Unemployed persons are those aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week but who were actively looking for work (full-time, part-time, temporary or casual) and who were available to start work. They include full-time students actively seeking and available for work in the reference period.

Persons Not in the Labour Force are those aged 15 years and over who were neither employed nor unemployed during the reference period. They include people keeping house (unpaid); people who were retired, voluntarily inactive, or permanently unable to work; people in institutions (hospitals, gaols, sanatoriums etc); members of contemplative religious orders; and people engaged solely in voluntary work.

THE LABOUR FORCE STATUS CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK



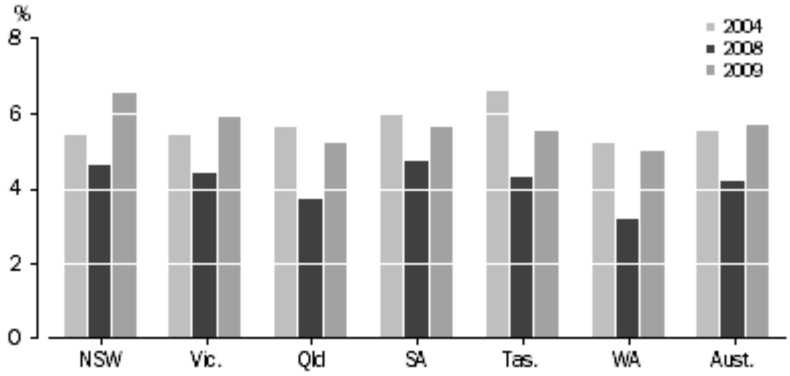
Source: *Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods,* April 2007 *(cat. no. 6102.0.55.001)*

RECENT LABOUR MARKET TRENDS

Unemployment Rates

The May 2009 rate of 5.0% represented Western Australia's highest level of unemployment for almost five years. However, this was well below the national figure of 5.7% for the same month. In May 2009, Western Australia had the third lowest unemployment rate in the nation, having recently exceeded the rate in the Northern Territory (3.9%) as well as the Australian Capital Territory (3.3%). All states except Western Australia had rates above 5%, with Queensland having the next lowest rate (5.2%) and New South Wales the highest (6.5%).

Unemployment Rate, Selected States (a)**:** Trend



(a) At May in the selected year.

Source: Labour Force, Australia, Spreadsheets, May 2009 (cat. no. 6202.0)

Youth Unemployment

Employment data for young people in Western Australia, aged 15-19 years, are available only in original data terms. As might be expected, the unemployment rate for this age group, in original terms, tends to fluctuate widely from month to month as it is affected by mass entries to, and exits from, the education system at different points in the academic year.

A second factor bearing on the comparison between youth unemployment rates and those of older populations is that a much larger proportion of the younger age groups are involved in part-time or full-time education while undertaking, or seeking, employment. For this reason, it is useful to consider unemployment rates for young people according to their educational attendance.

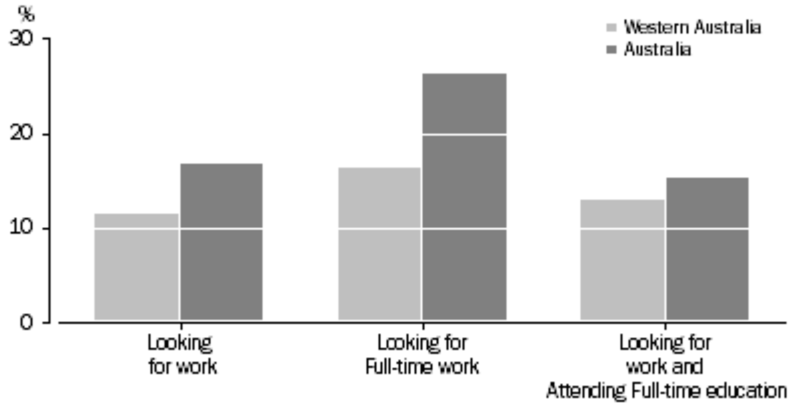
Thirdly, owing to sample size, unemployment rates for some population sub-groups (e.g. young persons not attending an educational institution; or full-time students looking for full-time work) are not statistically reliable at the state level and are therefore not included in this analysis.

Finally, the data presented on youth relate only to the 15-19 year age group because monthly employment data for people in the 20 to 24 age group are not released at the state level.

Historically, unemployment rates for young people have been much higher than for others in the Australian labour force. For Western Australians in the 15-19 year age group, the May 2009 unemployment rate (11.5 %) was more than double that of the state's total population (5.1%) in original terms. For young persons in full-time education who were simultaneously looking for full-time or part-time work, the May 2009 unemployment rate was 12.9%. The rate of unemployment was highest (16.3%) among young persons (whether or not attending an educational institution) who were looking for full-time work.

Among the states and territories, Western Australia had the lowest youth unemployment rates. In May 2009, the national rate was 16.7% for all 15-19 year olds and 15.2% for full-time students in that age group. For young persons seeking full-time work, the national figure rose to 26.2%.

Unemployment Rates, Persons 15-19 years **-** May 2009**:** Original



Industry Profile

Between September 2008 and May 2009, Western Australia experienced the largest percentage increase in unemployment of all states and territories, from 2.7% to 5.0% in trend terms. This reflects contraction in certain sectors of the Western Australian economy in response to the global economic downturn. This contraction was most apparent in the primary and mining-related service industries.

As monthly employment data cross-classified by industry are not available in trend (or seasonally adjusted) series for Western Australia, quarterly original data are used in the following analysis. Consequently, the numbers of employed people quoted are approximate and not directly comparable with the trend data used elsewhere in this article. They are nevertheless indicative of the industry drivers in recent employment trends.

In the May quarter 2009, an estimated 52,000 people were employed in the Mining industry, almost 20,000 fewer than in the November quarter 2008 (original data). Although employment figures for this industry have been very volatile historically, the May 2009 figure represents a 27% decrease over the previous six months and a 29% decrease over the previous year.

The six months to May 2009 also saw a substantial fall in the number of people employed in Agriculture, forestry and fishing. Again, this is an industry in which employment figures are volatile; however during this period, the number employed in Agriculture, forestry and fishing fell by almost 16,000, to around 35,000 persons.

Over the same period, a substantial decrease (over 6,000) occurred in the number of people employed in the Professional, scientific and technical services industry, which fell below 69,000 in the May quarter 2009. It is likely that some of these job losses resulted from the contraction in the mining industry. Estimates from the October 2008 ABS survey, Labour Mobility and Intentions, Western Australia indicate that approximately 40% of people employed in the Professional, scientific and technical services industry were engaged in a mining support activity, contracted to the mining industry or directly engaged in a mining operation.

Job losses across these three industries accounted for about 70% of the total jobs lost between November 2008 and May 2009. Smaller job losses in other industries, including Electricity, gas, water and waste services; Rental, hiring and real estate services; Accommodation and food Services; Construction; and Manufacturing also contributed to the rising rate of unemployment..

In contrast, the period between November 2008 and May 2009 saw a net increase in the total number of people employed in other industries. Net growth occurred particularly in Retail trade and the Health care and social assistance industries, where a high proportion of workers are currently employed in a part-time capacity.

Retail trade is the largest employing industry in Western Australia. In November quarter 2008, the workforce in Retail trade numbered 130,000 persons. By May quarter 2009, this figure had risen to 142,000, of whom 52% were employed part-time.The Health care and social assistance industry is the state's second largest employer, with a workforce rising from 114,000 in November quarter 2008 to almost 130,000 in May 2009. Of these, a significant proportion (approximately 38%) were part-time workers.

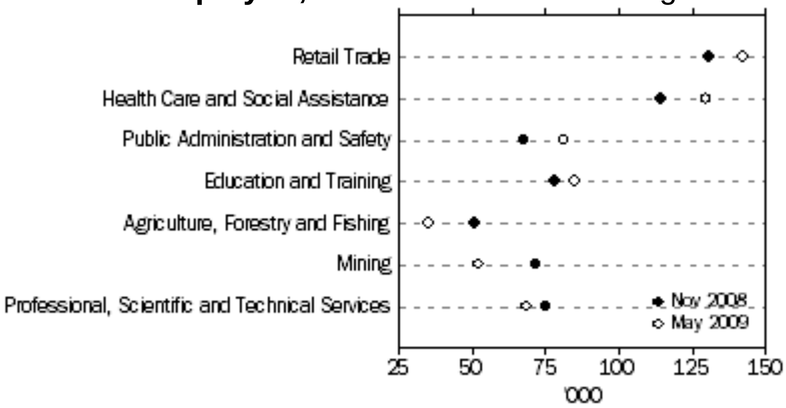
These two industries accounted for almost one quarter (23%) of the total Western Australian labour force in May 2009 and about 44% of all jobs gained in the preceding six months. Other major contributions to job gains over this period were in the Public Administration and

safety industry, which added approximately 13,800 persons; and the Education and training industry, which added approximately 6,700 persons to the employed labour force. These industries together accounted for another 33% of all job gains between November 2008 and May 2009.

The rise in the number of people employed in providing health, education, vocational training and social welfare services lends support to the proposition that the need for these services has grown in the Western Australian community, particularly among those facing unemployment, decreased working hours or housing disadvantage as a consequence of the global financial crisis.

Thus, while the early months of 2009 have seen rapidly rising unemployment, the job losses have not been evenly distributed across all industries. Job losses were largely concentrated in the primary industries and in the Professional, scientific and technical services industry, while some job gains occurred in retail and certain public and private sector service industries.

Total Employed, Selected Industries **-** Original



Source: Labour Force, Australia, Detailed,Quarterly, May 2009 (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003)

Part-time Employment

In the six months to May 2009, the proportion of the employed labour force working part-time (i.e. less than 35 hours per week) rose from 27% to 29% (original data). This includes employees, employers and own-account workers. Over the same period, the average number of hours worked by employees fell to 34.5 hours per week.

The increase in the proportion of part-time workers was unevenly spread across industries. In the six months to May 2009, significant increases occurred in the Professional, scientific and technical services industry (from around 19% to almost 25%); and in the Transport, postal and warehousing industry (from 20% to just over 24%). A substantial increase in the proportion of part-time workers also occurred in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry although normal seasonal influences may be largely responsible in this case.

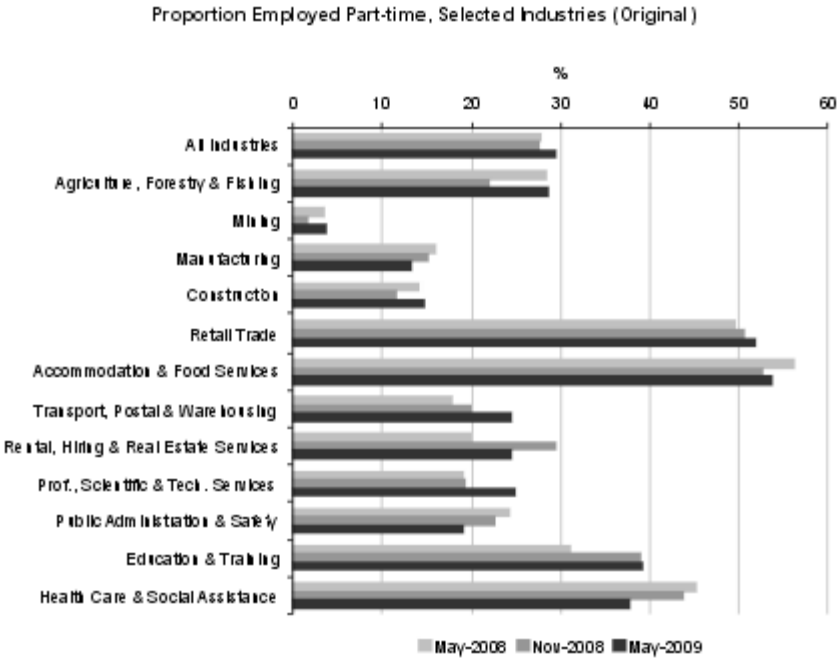
By contrast, the Health care and social assistance; Public administration and safety industries and Rental, hiring and real estate services industries saw decreases in the proportion of part-time workers. This diminishing proportion in some health, welfare and community service-oriented industries may be due, in part, to the community's increased need for these services during the wider economic downturn.

In May 2009, the two industries in Western Australia with the largest proportions of part-time

workers were Accommodation and food services (54%) and Retail trade (52%). Both industries experienced a small percentage increase in these proportions in the six months to May 2009 (around one percentage point in each case). However, their numerical contribution to the total number of part-time workers in the labour force is substantial. Of the estimated 344,000 persons working part-time in Western Australia in May 2009, the Accommodation and food services industry contributed approximately 34,000 workers (10%) while the Retail trade industry contributed almost 74,000 (22%) in original terms.

Although the recent increase in the total number of people employed in the Retail trade industry (approximately 12,000 persons in six months) may be attributable, in some measure, to the Federal Government's economic stimulus packages, it is evident that the growth in retail employment has occurred largely in part-time work.

Proportion employed part-time, selected industries**:** original



Source: *Labour Force, Australia*, *Detailed,Quarterly, May 2009 (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003)*

LONGER-TERM MOVEMENTS IN THE JOB MARKET

During the past 30 years, labour market trends have been influenced by a number of factors.These include broad societal changes, the changing global financial situation and the state's rapid economic development and related skill shortages during the 1990s and most of the current decade. All of these factors have impacted, at different times, on Western Australia's job market.

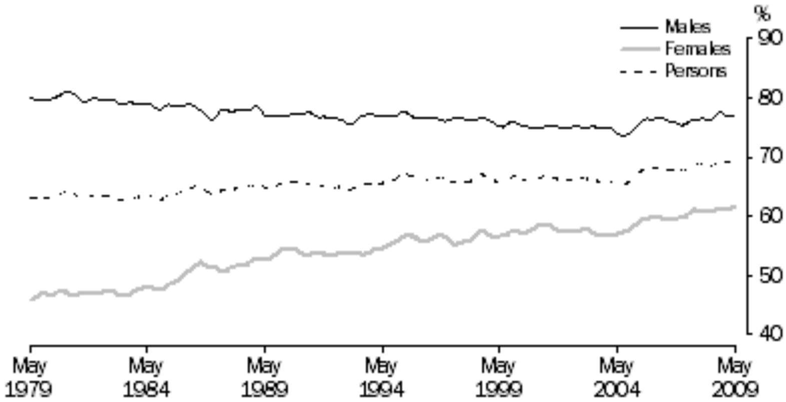
Trends in Labour Force Participation

One of the broad societal changes that has affected the Western Australian job market in the last 30 years has been a dramatic rise in the labour force participation of women. In May 1979, 46% of women aged 15 years and over were in the labour force. By May 2009, this figure had increased to over 61%. Much of this increase may be attributed to increased opportunities to work part-time and the increasing pressure on employers to provide family-friendly work environments.

By contrast, the male rate of participation has trended downwards, falling from 80% in 1979 to a record low of 73.5% in August 2004. In the last five years, the male participation rate

has been more volatile, rising again to 77.5% in September 2008 (when unemployment was also at an all-time low) then falling back slightly to 76.9% by May 2009. The fall in men's participation over the last thirty years may be due to a number of factors including the ageing of the population and improved superannuation outcomes associated with a shift, in the first few years of the century, towards earlier retirement in some higher-paid occupations.

Participation Rate: Trend



Source: *Labour Force, Australia, Spreadsheets, April 2009* (cat. no. 6202.0)

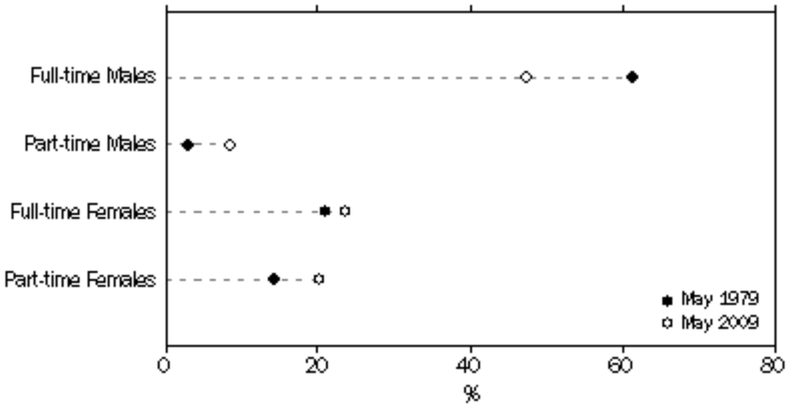
Changing Structure of the Workforce

Over the last three decades, there has been a significant change in the composition of the state's employed labour force. In 1979, almost two-thirds (65%) of the workforce were men and one third (35%) were women. By 2009, the comparable proportions were 56% and 44% respectively.

In 1979, 83% of the workforce were employed full-time but by 2009 this figure has dropped to around 71%.The increase in part-time employment can be attributed to long and short-term factors, of both a social and economic nature. For example, it is likely that the recent global economic downturn has impacted on the proportion of persons working part-time, as employers in affected industries have opted to reduce the hours worked by their employees, rather than undertake a retrenchment process. Longer-term factors include societal and cultural changes, which have enabled more women, particularly women with young children, to work part-time; and young singles of both sexes to be increasingly engaged in casual and part-time employment while attending an educational institution. A third contributory factor is increasing flexibility in work practices, which has enabled some mature-aged workers to move to part-time employment in the years immediately prior to retirement.

As a result of these social and economic changes, the structure of the Western Australian workforce is now very different from the structure of thirty years ago. In 1979, by far the largest group in the Western Australian workforce were males in full-time employment (62%). By 2009, male full-time workers comprised only 48% of the employed labour force. As a corollary, male part-time workers have increased from around 3% to 8% of the total workforce. Over the same period, female part-time workers have increased from 14% to 20% and female full-time workers from 21% to 24%.

Employed Persons, 1979 and 2009 - Trend



Source: Labour Force, Australia, Spreadsheets, May 2009 (cat. no. 6202.0)

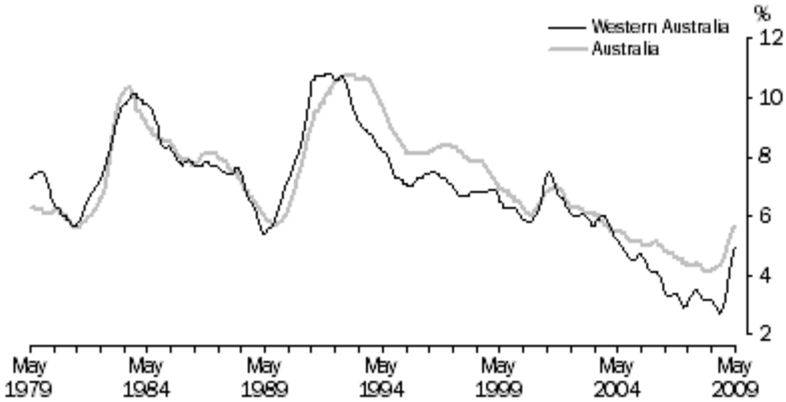
Unemployment trends

Analysis of long-term movements shows that Western Australia has had lower unemployment than Australia for most of the last 15 years.The highest ever recorded figure for Western Australia (10.8%) was experienced in 1991 and 1992, at a time when the national figure varied between 10.1% and 10.2%. This occurred during the last economic recession following the 1987 stock market 'crash', which led to some job losses particularly in the financial sector. Thereafter, the unemployment rate in Western Australia commenced to fall whereas the national rate remained above 10% for the two following years.

Since 1992, the only time in which unemployment in Western Australia exceeded the national rate was for the six consecutive months between March and August 2001. In that time, the state's unemployment figure rose from 6.8%, peaked at 7.5% in June 2001 and then fell back to 7.2% by August. Over the same period the national figure rose from 6.6% to 6.9%.

In the latter half of 2001 the state and national rates resumed their downward trend, with the figure for Western Australia falling considerably faster after March 2004 to reach the all-time low of 2.7% in September 2008. The depth of the fall in unemployment and the rapidity of the subsequent rise (2.3 percentage points in just eight months) have been unprecedented in Western Australia's recorded economic history. These trends clearly reflect the state's significant economic growth driven by the resources boom, followed by the delayed economic downturn related to the global financial crisis.

Unemployment, 1979 -2009**:** Trend

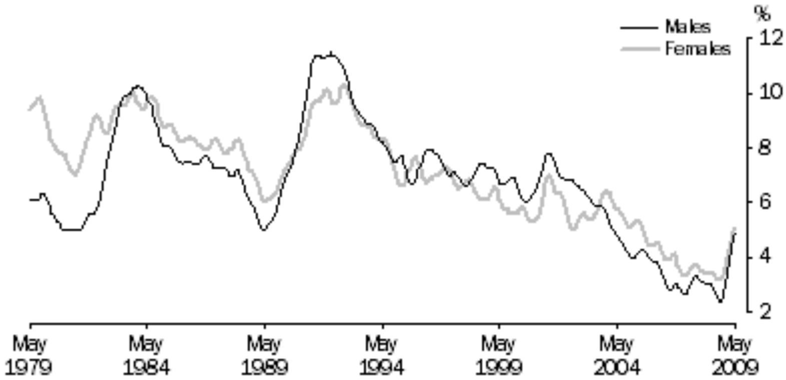


Source: Labour Force, Australia, Spreadsheets, April 2009 (cat. no. 6202.0.55.001)

Male and Female Unemployment

In September 2003, the unemployment rate for Western Australian men (5.9%) dropped for the first time in over a decade below that of women (6.1%). Since then significant job expansion in the male-dominated mineral resources industries caused the unemployment rate for men to fall at a much faster pace. By September 2008 male unemployment had fallen to 2.4% compared with 3.2% for women. However, since the end of the recent resources boom, the gap in unemployment levels between the sexes has again narrowed. By May 2009, 4.9% of men in the Western Australian labour force were unemployed compared with 5.1% of women.

Unemployment, Western Australia**:** Trend



Source: *Labour Force, Australia, Spreadsheets, April 2009* (cat. no. 6202.0.55.001)

CONCLUSION

The labour market in Western Australia has undergone considerable change over the past 30 years. Three broad factors have been particularly influential: the state's rapid economic development during the resources boom of the 1990s and beyond; the increasing labour force participation of women, particularly in part-time employment; and changing global economic conditions including the current financial crisis.

Despite a steep rise in unemployment in recent months, Western Australia's unemployment rate is still well below that of other states and most OECD countries. The number of employed people has continued to rise in several industries (albeit often in part-time jobs); and has seen serious decline in only a few. Recently released Labour Force data indicate that unemployment in Western Australia reached 5.2% in trend terms (or 5.1% seasonally adjusted) in June 2009 while the rate for Australia rose to 5.8% (trend and seasonally adjusted). Relativities with other states and territories have been maintained, with Western Australia still recording the third lowest unemployment rate in the nation. Notably the unemployment rate is now identical for Western Australian men and women.

At the time of writing, it is expected that the upward trend in unemployment will continue on the same trajectory in the short term. In its 2009-10 Budget Paper, Economic and Fiscal Outlook, the State Government suggests that employment growth is likely to be constrained in the next two financial years "by falling business investment and weak consumption growth". However, the Budget Papers suggest that employment growth will resume in 2011-12 and 2012-13 and forecast a peak average unemployment rate of 6.75% for 2010-11. Based on this and Western Australia's economic and labour market history, it seems that employment conditions in this state may recover earlier, or at a faster rate, than

in the rest of Australia and the developed world.

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Explanatory Notes

Abbreviations

ABBREVIATIONS

The following symbols and abbreviations are used in this publication:

ABARE	Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
ASCO	Australian Standard Classification of Occupations
Aust.	Australia
ERP	estimated resident population
n.e.s.	not elsewhere specified
n.f.d.	not further defined
SITC	Standard International Trade Classification
WA	Western Australia

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